

## Revised Resolution No. 31

### COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Health & Safety

Re: PFAS

1 WHEREAS, when firefighters engage in active  
2 fire suppression activities, they know the dangers  
3 associated with their job; and

4 WHEREAS, new research now suggests  
5 firefighters are at risk before they ever leave the  
6 firehouse just wearing their turnout gear; and

7 WHEREAS, medical evidence exists that proves  
8 that firefighters face disproportionate rates of cancer  
9 than the general public; and

10 WHEREAS, exposure to polyfluoroalkyl  
11 substances, known as PFAS, has been proven to  
12 increase the occurrence of cancers including  
13 testicular, prostate, mesothelioma, and non-  
14 Hodgkin's lymphoma; and

15 WHEREAS, firefighting PPE manufacturers are  
16 not required to disclose the chemicals used in the  
17 manufacturing process; and

18 WHEREAS, studies have shown that PFAS in the  
19 outer shell of firefighting PPE may be dislodged  
20 when the material is manipulated, increasing the  
21 concern of ingestion or inhalation; and

22 WHEREAS, University of Notre Dame  
23 Experimental Nuclear Physics Professor Graham  
24 Peaslee is testing new and used personal protective  
25 gear issued through the 2000s for the presence of  
26 perfluorinated alkyl substances; and

27 WHEREAS, Peaslee said the initial results from  
28 tested PPE fabric swatches were "phenomenal,"  
29 "(The results were) off the scale in parts per million

30 of fluorine in all but one of the samples,” he said and  
31 continued, “Everything was just loaded with  
32 fluorine.”; and

33 WHEREAS, his research is helping our members  
34 to learn more about how our turnout gear could be a  
35 major cause of occupational cancers; and

36 WHEREAS, current bunker gear manufacturers  
37 continue to deny the potential for any health  
38 problems created by their use of PFAS; therefore be  
39 it

40 RESOLVED, That the IAFF actively oppose the  
41 use of PFAS, ~~in any amount~~, in the production of  
42 firefighting PPE; and be it further

43 RESOLVED, That the IAFF seek further  
44 independent testing of ~~all~~ PPE ensembles currently  
45 available to determine the levels of PFAS and the  
46 ability of the PFAS to penetrate the skin; and be it  
47 further

48 RESOLVED, That the IAFF meet with each  
49 manufacturer of firefighting PPE and ~~demand~~ seek  
50 cooperation and assistance to immediately cease the  
51 use of PFAS in firefighting PPE, ~~and the IAFF shall~~  
52 ~~send a notice to each local affiliate, identifying any~~  
53 ~~and all manufacturers refusing to immediately cease~~  
54 ~~the use of PFAS~~; and be it further

55 RESOLVED, That the IAFF ~~meet with each~~  
56 ~~manufacturer of firefighting PPE and demand~~  
57 ~~cooperation and~~ apply for federal grant assistance to  
58 fund a study and data collection of the negative  
59 health effects of PFAS in firefighting PPE; and be  
60 it further

61 RESOLVED, That the IAFF Health and Safety  
62 Committee give quarterly updates to the District Vice

63        Presidents so that information may be disseminated  
64        to their local affiliates.

Submitted by: IAFF Local 765, Fort Lauderdale  
                 IAFF Local 3080, Metro-Broward Professional  
                 Fire Fighters  
                 IAFF Local 1365, Orlando Professional Fire  
                 Fighters

Cost Estimate: None

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Revised**  
**CONVENTION ACTION: Adopted as Revised**