



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

NEWS RELEASE

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Massachusetts Superior Court Ruling Allows IAFF Toxic Forever Chemical Lawsuit to Proceed

The decision denies a legal effort by the National Fire Protection Association to dismiss the case.

On March 5, 2024, the Massachusetts Superior Court denied, in part, the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Motion to Dismiss the lawsuit filed by the IAFF. The decision will allow the union to continue its case against the NFPA for its promulgation of Standard 1971, which governs firefighter protective gear.

Justice Kenneth Salinger found two of the three counts of the civil complaint can proceed with formal discovery. The IAFF filed the lawsuit almost a year ago as part of its effort to change the standard that has infused carcinogenic PFAS forever chemicals into firefighter bunker gear.

“On behalf of our Executive Board and our entire membership, I want to thank our attorneys from the PFAS Law Firms for their dedicated work. This is a great ruling for our membership and our continuing efforts to force the removal of cancer-causing carcinogens from our gear,” said General President Edward Kelly. “Our claims of civil negligence and unfair and deceptive business practices against the NFPA will now move forward. This lawsuit is a monumental undertaking, but we remain steadfast in the fight.”

ABOUT THE IAFF

The International Association of Fire Fighters is the driving force behind every advance in fire and emergency services in the 21st century. With headquarters in Washington, D.C., and Ottawa, Ontario, the IAFF represents more than 344,000 professional fire fighters and EMS professionals. Its members protect more than 85 percent of the population throughout the U.S. and Canada.

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