

Table 1. Concentrations of Metals ($\pm 95\%$ Confidence Intervals) in Examined Fire Suppressants and Regulatory Thresholds^a

	Regulatory Thresholds ($\mu\text{g/L}$)									
	Cr	Cd	As	Pb	Cu	V	Mn	Sb	Ba	Tl
US EPA MCL ⁴⁸	100	5	10	15 ^b	1,300 ^b	50 ^c	50 ^c	6	2,000	2
CA STLC ⁵⁰	5,000 ^d	1,000 ^d	5,000 ^d	5,000 ^d	25,000	24,000		15,000	100,000 ^d	7,000
Products Listed on US Forest Service Fire Retardants QPL ^e ($\mu\text{g/L}$)										
	Cr	Cd	As	Pb	Cu	V	Mn	Sb ^f	Ba	Tl
PhosChek LC-95W	72,700 \pm 1,500	14,400 \pm 300	962 \pm 9	63 \pm 2	2,660 \pm 160	119,000 \pm 2,000	16,100 \pm 400	767 \pm 5	282 \pm 13	412 \pm 4
Komodo	600 \pm 100	96 \pm 11	286 \pm 9	31 \pm 4	300 \pm 140	870 \pm 130	630 \pm 60	12 \pm 4	370 \pm 80	3.6 \pm 1.8
Products Listed on US Forest Service Class A Foams QPL ^g ($\mu\text{g/L}$)										
	Cr	Cd	As	Pb	Cu	V	Mn	Sb ^f	Ba	Tl
PhosChek First Response	6 \pm 3	0.8 \pm 0.2	0.5 \pm 0.6	20.8 \pm 0.4	54 \pm 4	<0.7	13.0 \pm 1.6	1.8 \pm 1.8	20 \pm 5	0.5 \pm 0.3
PhosChek WD881	6.6 \pm 1.9	<0.65	1.0 \pm 0.4	19.7 \pm 0.4	43 \pm 4	<0.7	8.96 \pm 0.09	2.4 \pm 0.9	17 \pm 5	0.50 \pm 0.18
Silv-Ex Plus Class A	8 \pm 3	0.9 \pm 0.4	0.4 \pm 0.3	23.7 \pm 1.0	57.3 \pm 1.0	<0.7	10.61 \pm 0.10	2.99 \pm 0.10	22 \pm 2	0.8 \pm 0.4
KnockDown	8 \pm 2	<0.65	0.5 \pm 0.4	21.1 \pm 1.0	47 \pm 4	<0.7	10.84 \pm 0	3.9 \pm 1.6	16 \pm 4	0.43 \pm 0.19
FireIce Polar EcoFoam	10 \pm 3	1.02 \pm 0.10	0.83 \pm 0.19	25.2 \pm 0.4	115 \pm 6	0.39 \pm 0.19	14.0 \pm 0.6	8 \pm 8	23 \pm 4	0.99 \pm 0
Products Listed on US Forest Service Water Enhancers QPL ^h ($\mu\text{g/L}$)										
	Cr	Cd	As	Pb	Cu	V	Mn	Sb ^f	Ba	Tl
Barricade II	8 \pm 3	3 \pm 3	3 \pm 3	8 \pm 2	40 \pm 50	2 \pm 2	20 \pm 60	14 \pm 4	12 \pm 3	3 \pm 3
ThermoGel-200L	23 \pm 2	4 \pm 3	2 \pm 3	54 \pm 5	3,330 \pm 80	2 \pm 2	31 \pm 3	8 \pm 2	190 \pm 4	2 \pm 3
Unlisted Products ($\mu\text{g/L}$)										
	Cr	Cd	As	Pb	Cu	V	Mn	Sb ^f	Ba	Tl
Cold Fire	94 \pm 2	<0.65	<0.25	24 \pm 17	61 \pm 11	11 \pm 7	59.1 \pm 1.9	4 \pm 3	183 \pm 8	0.7 \pm 1.8
DRI-ONE	36.8 \pm 1.9	0.9 \pm 2.4	0.7 \pm 1.4	15 \pm 4	130 \pm 160	96 \pm 8	26.6 \pm 1.2	5 \pm 3	260 \pm 10	0.9 \pm 1.4
Flamecheck M-111	145 \pm 4	5 \pm 5	60.2 \pm 1.6	7 \pm 2	150 \pm 10	30 \pm 11	68 \pm 3	53 \pm 15	122 \pm 3	1 \pm 2
Master Flame	40 \pm 7	0.8 \pm 2.5	10 \pm 8	8 \pm 3	57 \pm 63	400 \pm 150	298 \pm 5	3 \pm 4	112 \pm 7	<0.085
No-Burn	202 \pm 18	38.9 \pm 1.7	142 \pm 9	20 \pm 3	2,000 \pm 500	44 \pm 6	2,300 \pm 200	39 \pm 11	205 \pm 3	5.1 \pm 1.8

^aValues in italics indicate concentrations exceeding drinking water regulations, and values in boldface indicate concentrations exceeding hazardous waste regulations. For products that recommend users to dilute before application, values reflect concentrations present after dilution. ^bPb and Cu listed regulations are action levels. ^cMn and V listed regulations are California Notification Levels. ⁴⁹ ^dMetals also federally regulated (at same concentrations⁵¹). ^eReference 16. ^fRecovery of Sb in HNO₃ alone can be low,⁵² so these values may be an underestimate and should be regarded as lower bounds.

^gReference 15. ^hReference 14.