

East Providence Firefighters Receive Non-PFAS Turnout Gear

The department becomes the first in the U.S. to adopt the gear department-wide

EAST PROVIDENCE, RI (June 17, 2025) - The East Providence Fire Department has become the first in the United States to purchase and use non-PFAS turnout gear department-wide—an industry milestone achieved through a collaborative partnership with protective gear manufacturer [Fire-Dex](#) and textile innovator [Milliken & Company](#).

The gear, which includes Milliken Assure™—North America’s first non-PFAS, non-halogenated flame-resistant moisture barrier—was purchased as part of a \$658,000 investment by the City of East Providence. The delivery of 170 sets of turnout gear will provide all 125 full-time firefighters with a new set of turnout gear.

“This is about progress, partnership, and making deliberate decisions that reflect our department’s values,” said East Providence Fire Chief Michael Carey. “We’re proud to work with U.S. suppliers who share our vision and respond with innovation and accountability.”

The decision comes amid growing momentum around PFAS alternatives in firefighting gear across the country, including [H.B. 5019](#), a Rhode Island bill introduced earlier this year that would prohibit the use of intentionally added PFAS in firefighter turnout gear sold or used in the state beginning in 2027.

“Fire-Dex and Milliken listened closely to what we wanted and worked with us every step of the way,” said East Providence Mayor Roberto DaSilva. “This gear delivery represents more than new uniforms—it represents a commitment to keep our firefighters protected when they put their lives in danger to keep our communities safe.”

The transition marks the culmination of a co-led effort that began in early 2024. The result is a complete turnout gear solution that does not rely on fluorinated chemistry across any of its three protective layers: outer shell, thermal liner, and moisture barrier.

While non-fluorinated fabrics have existed for outer shells and thermal liners, the moisture barrier has historically relied on fluorochemicals for repellency and pathogen resistance. The introduction of Assure™ in October 2024 made it possible for Fire-Dex to provide a solution where all three layers meet performance expectations without the use of PFAS chemistry. The gear went through rigorous performance and safety testing and is UL certified and meets the NFPA 1971-2018 standard.

Fire-Dex has provided turnout gear to East Providence firefighters for more than 20 years, growing into a trusted partnership rooted in respect and responsiveness to support firefighter safety. Strengthening the value chain, Milliken and Fire-Dex have maintained a decade of

strategic collaboration that delivers innovation and advancement through U.S. research and manufacturing.

Media Availability

Media are invited to attend the gear delivery at the East Providence Fire Station 4 located at 66 Wampanoag Trl, East Providence, RI 02914 on June 17 at 11 a.m.

Photos and b-roll of the gear delivery, as well as interviews with East Providence leadership and company representatives, are available upon request.

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ABOUT FIRE-DEX

Fire-Dex is a family-owned, global leader in innovative PPE solutions for first responders and the fastest-growing manufacturer in the industry. Committed to the mission to “Serve Those Who Serve,” Fire-Dex has spent over 40 years focused on the head-to-toe protection of firefighters, offering turnout gear, gloves, boots, alternative PPE and more. Along with its sister company Gear Wash, which specializes in PPE care and maintenance, Fire-Dex provides trusted expertise to support the full lifecycle of protective gear. With a legacy of inventive thinking and state-of-the-art manufacturing, Fire-Dex continues to set new standards in safety, durability and innovation for first responders around the world. To learn more, visit www.firedex.com.

ABOUT MILLIKEN

Milliken & Company is a global manufacturing leader whose focus on materials science delivers tomorrow’s breakthroughs today. From industry-leading molecules to sustainable innovations, Milliken creates products that enhance people’s lives and deliver solutions for its customers and communities. Drawing on thousands of patents and a portfolio with applications across the textile, flooring, chemical and healthcare businesses, the company harnesses a shared sense of integrity and excellence to positively impact the world for generations. Discover more about Milliken’s curious minds and inspired solutions at milliken.com and on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).