



**Ethanol Emergency Response Coalition**  
**C/o International Association of Fire Chiefs**  
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# **Ethanol Emergency Response Coalition (EERC)**



## **Ethanol Emergency Response Coalition**

The Ethanol Emergency Response Coalition (EERC) was formed to support safety concerns with the transporting and handling of renewable fuels specifically ethanol and ethanol blended fuels. As the increasing amounts of renewable fuels are produced it is imperative that first responders possess the knowledge necessary to respond to these incidents. The EERC consist of organizations representing emergency responders and industry that came together to identify and address emergency response issues related to the increased production, distribution and consumption of ethanol and ethanol blended fuels. The EERC includes many organizations such as Renewable Fuels Association (RFA), the Independent Liquid Terminals Associations (ILTA), Underwriters Laboratory (UL), TYCO/Ansul Fire Protection, Industrial Fire World, Williams Fire and Hazard Control, the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and others.

A major goal of EERC is to provide education for the fire service and industry relating to ethanol blended fuels and how to best respond to fires and spills involving these products. Specific objectives of the Coalition include the evaluation of various flammable liquid extinguishing agents, development of training materials, tactical response procedures and protocols, and other resources for emergency responders to use if confronted with an emergency incident involving ethanol.

The EERC recently concluded testing of various foam agents against ethanol fuel fires to determine which foam types were most effective in extinguishing fires and maintaining vapor suppression. The tests were conducted over a two-week period in February 2007 at the Ansul Fire Technology Center in Marinette, WI. The following types of foams were tested:

- Alcohol-resistant, aqueous film-forming foam (AR-AFFF)
- Traditional aqueous film-forming foam (A-FFF)
- Class-A foam intended for fire involving ordinary combustibles, or Class A materials
- An emulsifier
- Conventional fluoroprotein foam
- Alcohol-resistant film-forming fluoroprotein (AR-FFFP) foam

In conclusion, **AR-AFFF was the only foam agent that successfully passed all the tests** against both E10 and E85/95. While other foams had varying degrees of effectiveness, the tests confirmed that AR-AFFF will be the most effective and most versatile foam for any fire or spill scenario involving ethanol-blended fuels. EERC has produced a documentary video, now available, which presents a thoughtful overview of the growing presence of ethanol blended fuels in the nation's fuel supply, and characterizes the resulting new risk. Results from the foam tests are explained in plain english within this introductory film.

EERC has begun developing training materials and an instructional video for the fire service which it will make available via the internet as a resource for emergency response information about ethanol and ethanol blended fuels.

For further information about the EERC contact:

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