



PFAS Fact Sheet

December 2017

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manmade chemicals that have been used for a wide variety of residential, commercial, and industrial uses. PFAS are considered emerging environmental contaminants and the health effects are not well known. The presumed source of PFASs in groundwater near the Fairbanks International Airport (FAI) is the use of fire-fighting foams at Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) training areas. The FAI has hired Shannon & Wilson to test private water-supply wells for PFASs.

The FAI has tested over 80 private water-supply wells starting in November 2017. Some properties in the well testing area are connected to the College Utilities water system and do not have water wells.

We are testing water for perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), and several other PFASs.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) health advisory level for drinking water is **70 parts per trillion** for PFOS, PFOA, or the sum of the two.

We advise that residents with test results above this level do not use their water for drinking or cooking. The health advisory level has been set based on the latest peer-reviewed science. However, the human health risks associated with PFAS exposure are not well established.

Test results are typically available within three to four weeks.

PFASs are used in a large number of products ranging from fabric waterproofing compounds, non-stick cookware, stain-resistant carpeting, some food packaging, and firefighting foams.

An updated PFAS results map is available at: www.dot.alaska.gov/faiiap/arff-training-areas-contamination.shtml

For questions about well testing and study:

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