PFAS Results Notification

What are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and where do they come from?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of thousands of man-made chemicals. PFAS have been used in a variety of industrial and consumer products around the globe, including in the U.S., for decades. Due to their widespread use and environmental persistence, most people in the United States have been exposed to certain PFAS. PFAS have been used to make coatings and products that are used as oil and water repellents for carpets, clothing, paper packaging for food, and cookware. They are also contained in some foams (aqueous film-forming foam or AFFF) used for fighting petroleum fires.

Is there a federal or California regulation for PFAS in drinking water?

There is currently no federal drinking water standard for any PFAS compounds. In May 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established a lifetime drinking water health advisory (HA) level at 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for individual or combined concentrations of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). Both chemicals are types of PFAS.

In California, there is not a PFAS drinking water regulation.

The Department of Defense (DoD) issued a policy in 2023 to monitor drinking water for PFAS at all DoD owned and operated water systems at a minimum of every two years. The DoD policy states that if water sampling results confirm that drinking water contains PFOA and PFOS at individual or combined concentrations greater than the 2016 EPA HA level of 70 ppt, water systems would 1) take immediate action to reduce exposure to PFOS or PFOA by providing alternative drinking water; and 2) evaluate and implement corrective actions to reduce levels below 70 ppt, or determine if the system should be permanently removed from use.

What about the EPA's 2022 interim Health Advisories or proposed regulations?

EPA issued interim Health Advisories for PFOS and PFOA in 2022. However, these newer levels are below quantifiable limits (i.e., below detection levels). In March 2023, EPA announced a proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for six PFAS including PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, HFPO-DA (GenX Chemicals), PFHxS, and PFBS. The EPA anticipates finalizing the regulation after the public comment period in 2023 and water systems will have three years to comply with the new regulation.

In anticipation of this EPA drinking water regulation and to account for emerging science that shows potential health effects of PFOS and PFOA at levels lower than 70 ppt, DoD continues to evaluate its efforts to address PFAS in drinking water, and what actions we can take to be prepared to incorporate this standard, such as reviewing our current data and collecting additional sampling where necessary. DoD remains committed to communicating and engaging with our communities throughout this process.

Has Remote Training Site Warner Springs tested its water for PFAS?

Yes. Remote Training Site Warner Springs has previously tested for PFAS in 2020, May and August 2021 and 2023. Most recently, samples were collected from the Quarterdeck (Building 1665) and Well 1 in September 2023.

PFAS Detected but PFOA/PFOS were below the 2016 EPA HA

We are informing you that PFOA and PFOS were detected but below the 2016 EPA HA. Other PFAS compounds covered by the sampling method were detected above the minimum reporting limit (MRL), but EPA does not have a HA for these compounds at this time. The results are provided in Table 1-1. PFOA and PFOS were below the 2016 EPA HA of 70 parts per trillion, however, we will continue to monitor the drinking water semi-annually. In accordance with DoD policy, RTSWS will collect semi-annual samples for PFAS until results are below the MRL for two consecutive sampling events and then every two years thereafter as long as the results remain below the MRL and the 2016 EPA HA.

Table 1-1a. PFAS Compound Detections – RTSWS Quarterdeck

Analyte	PFAS Compound	Site	Unit	Result (ppt) (09/07/2023)	Range
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid	PFOS	Quarterdeck (Bldg. 1665)	ng/L	18	3.9 - 18
Perfluorooctanoic acid	PFOA	Quarterdeck (Bldg. 1665)	ng/L	22	11 - 22
Perfluoropentanoic acid	PFPeA	Quarterdeck (Bldg. 1665)	ng/L	2.6	
Perfluoropentance sulfonic acid	PFPeS	Quarterdeck (Bldg. 1665)	ng/L	4.9	
Perfluorohexanoic acid	PFHxA	Quarterdeck (Bldg. 1665)	ng/L	11	7.6 - 11
Perfluoro-n-butanoic acid	PFBA	Quarterdeck (Bldg. 1665)	ng/L	5.1	
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid	PFBS	Quarterdeck (Bldg. 1665)	ng/L	14	9.2 -14
Perfluoroheptane sulfonic acid	PFHpA	Quarterdeck (Bldg. 1665)	ng/L	2.8	
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid	PFHxS	Quarterdeck (Bldg. 1665)	ng/L	76	34 - 76

Table 1-1b. PFAS Compound Detections – RTSWS Well 1

Analyte	PFAS Compound	Site	Unit	Result (ppt) (09/07/2023)	Range
Perfluoroheptanoic acid	PFHpA	Well 1	ng/L	2.2	
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid	PFBS	Well 1	ng/L	11	7 - 11

Perfluoro-n-butanoic acid	PFBA	Well 1	ng/L	4.5	
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid	PFHxS	Well 1	ng/L	48	29 - 48
Perfluorooctanoic acid	PFOA	Well 1	ng/L	19	8.8 - 19
Perfluorohexamoic acid	PFHxA	Well 1	ng/L	11	6.3 - 11
Perfluoropentane sulfonic acid	PFPeS	Well 1	ng/L	3.4	
Perfluoropentanoic acid	PFPeA	Well 1	ng/L	2.1	
Perfluorooctanesulfnoic acid	PFOS	Well 1	ng/L	14	3.7 - 15