



PFAS SNAPSHOT

Installation Name: Mountain Home Air Force Base	State: Idaho
Installation Type: Active	DoD Component: Air Force

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a national issue that requires national solutions. PFAS are found in everyday consumer items – from nonstick cookware to water-resistant clothing. DoD’s use of PFAS started in the 1970s, with the introduction of aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) for fuel firefighting purposes. AFFF contains PFAS and may contain perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and, in some formulations, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), two chemicals of the larger class of PFAS. DoD is one of many users of AFFF; other major users include commercial airports, the oil and gas industry, and local fire departments. To protect its Service members and prevent releases to the environment, DoD only uses AFFF to respond to emergency events and for testing and training when it can be completely contained and properly disposed.

In May 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) lifetime Health Advisories (HAs) recommending the individual or combined levels of PFOS and PFOA in drinking water be at or below 70 parts per trillion (ppt). While the HAs are only guidance under the SDWA and not a required or enforceable drinking water standard, DoD began taking actions to address impacted drinking water and developed strategies to investigate and address DoD releases of PFAS. These actions include providing bottled water, point-of-use water filters, connections to municipal systems, and filtration systems. Additionally, all DoD-owned and operated drinking water systems have been sampled for PFOS and PFOA. No one – on or off base – is drinking water above the EPA HAs where DoD is the known source of the PFOS and/or PFOA release.

PFAS Testing Results for On-Base DoD-Owned and Operated Drinking Water Systems

The DoD Components have tested all DoD-owned and operated drinking water systems to identify drinking water that exceeded the EPA HAs for PFOS and PFOA. The Department takes immediate, short-term actions to address drinking water systems that tested above the EPA HAs. After stopping this drinking water exposure to PFOS and PFOA, DoD is implementing long-term drinking water solutions, such as closing wells, installing new wells, and adding permanent PFAS-specific treatment equipment to drinking water systems. No one on base is drinking water above the EPA HAs where DoD is the known source of the PFOS and/or PFOA release. We are continuing to test our DoD-owned and operated drinking water systems to ensure PFOS and PFOA levels remain below the EPA HAs. Table 1 on the next page provides testing results for and the status of addressing PFOS and PFOA in on-base DoD-owned and operated drinking water systems where applicable.

DoD Cleanup Actions to Address Off-Base Drinking Water and Groundwater

DoD follows the federal cleanup law, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980 (also known as “Superfund”), and long-standing EPA regulations for all chemicals in its cleanup program, including PFAS. CERCLA provides a consistent, science-based approach across the nation for cleanup. As DoD moves through the CERCLA process, the Department works in collaboration with regulatory agencies, communities, and facilities to ensure open and transparent information sharing.

Following CERCLA, DoD fully investigates releases and determines the appropriate cleanup actions based on risk. These investigations include assessing potential off-installation migration of PFOS and/or PFOA into drinking water. DoD’s priority is to quickly address PFOS and/or PFOA found in drinking water above the EPA HAs from DoD activities. DoD’s actions are consistent with EPA’s recommended actions, which include treatment of drinking water or providing alternative water supplies, such as bottled water, or connecting residents served by private wells to public drinking water systems. In addition, no one off base is drinking water with PFOS and/or PFOA above the EPA HAs where DoD is the known source of the PFOS and/or PFOA release. Table 2 on the next page provides testing results for and the status of actions to address PFOS and PFOA in non-DoD drinking water systems and private wells located off base where applicable. DoD also addresses PFOS and PFOA in groundwater that is not consumed as drinking water under CERCLA. Table 3 on the next page provides testing results for and the status of actions to address PFOS and PFOA in groundwater that is not used for drinking water where applicable.

Testing Results

The tables on the next page contain PFOS and PFOA testing results for DoD-owned and operated on-base drinking water systems, off-base drinking water, and groundwater that is not consumed as drinking water. These tables indicate whether the testing results for PFOS and PFOA are above or below detection limits or the EPA HAs. Detection limits represent the lowest concentration of a chemical that can be accurately measured by the laboratory equipment.

PFAS Health Information

Due to PFAS’ ability to build up in the body, even small amounts consumed regularly over a lifetime can result in measurable levels in exposed people. Scientists are still studying the health effects of exposure to PFAS. Although more research is needed, some studies in people have shown that certain PFAS may affect health. People should see their healthcare provider if they have any concerns with PFAS exposure and possible health effects. Visit <https://www.health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Combat-Support/Public-Health/PFAS> for more information on PFAS health effects.



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PFAS Testing Results for DoD-Owned and Operated Drinking Water Systems

In March 2020, the Department issued a policy for continued periodic testing of DoD-owned and operated drinking water systems for certain PFAS, including PFOS and PFOA. In accordance with DoD policy and EPA recommendations, the Department provides alternate water to consumers at locations with detections above the EPA HAs until drinking water results show consistent levels below the EPA HAs. Table 1 contains testing results for and the status of addressing PFOS and PFOA in on-base DoD-owned and operated drinking water systems where applicable.

Table 1: On-Base Drinking Water Testing Results for PFOS and PFOA		
Date Sampled	Highest Detection (ppt)	Status
08/10/2016	PFOS - 230 PFOA - 210	PFOS and PFOA tested higher than the EPA HAs in at least one system at Mountain Home Air Force Base. In accordance with DoD policy, the Air Force provided alternate water and the long-term solution is in place. The Air Force is sampling quarterly to monitor the system(s), and periodic updates are available on the installation website. No one is drinking water on base above the EPA HAs where DoD is the known source of PFOS and/or PFOA.

Additional information: <https://www.mountainhome.af.mil/Portals/102/Documents/2019%20CCR%20Report%20-%20MHAFB.pdf?ver=2020-06-29-155141-647×tamp=1593460344845>

DoD Cleanup Actions to Address Off-Base Drinking Water and Groundwater

Table 2 contains testing results for and the status of actions to address PFOS and PFOA in non-DoD drinking water systems and private wells located off base through September 30, 2020 where applicable. DoD addresses these releases through the CERCLA process.

Table 2: Off-Base Drinking Water Testing Results for PFOS and PFOA through September 30, 2020	
Highest Detection (ppt)	Status
-	Off-base drinking water testing results were below the detection limits for PFOS and PFOA.

Table 3 contains testing results for and the status of actions to address PFOS and PFOA in groundwater that is not consumed as drinking water through September 30, 2020 where applicable. DoD addresses these releases through the CERCLA process.

Table 3: Groundwater Testing Results for PFOS and PFOA through September 30, 2020		
Highest Detection (ppt)	CERCLA Phase	Status
214	PA/SI, RI	PFOS and/or PFOA tested above the detection limits in groundwater that is not used for drinking water. DoD is following the CERCLA process to investigate its PFAS releases on and around the installation and determine if further action is required.

CERCLA Investigation Overview:

DoD follows the CERCLA process to fully investigate a release and determine the appropriate cleanup actions based on risk. During the **Preliminary Assessment (PA)**, DoD reviews existing information and may conduct site visits to identify locations where DoD activities may have caused a PFOS/PFOA release. The next step in the CERCLA process is to perform a **Site Inspection (SI)** on locations identified during the PA to confirm whether a PFOS/PFOA release occurred. Once the DoD Components have information from the PA/SI, they can make informed decisions on which sites need to move to the next phase (i.e., **Remedial Investigation (RI)/Feasibility Study (FS)**). During the RI, DoD collects detailed information through field investigations to characterize site conditions, including the nature and extent of the PFOS/PFOA release; assess actual and potential exposure pathways; and evaluate risks to human health. If PFOS/PFOA results in an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment based on EPA's risk assessment policies, DoD will conduct an FS to evaluate cleanup alternatives and work with regulators to select a permanent solution that is protective of human health and the environment. DoD prioritizes its cleanup response based on the highest risk to address worse sites first.

Cleanup data associated with this installation can be found at: <https://ar.afcec-cloud.af.mil/>