

# City of Fairbanks

## FACT SHEET – Well Testing for Perfluorinated Compounds

JANUARY 2018

Perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) are a group of manmade chemicals that have been used for a wide variety of residential, commercial, and industrial uses. PFCs are classified as emerging environmental contaminants because they do not have established regulatory standards, but evolving science has identified potential risk to human health. The City of Fairbanks has discovered PFC contamination at the Regional Fire Training Center (RFTC) at 1710 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue and is working in coordination with state regulators to take responsive action.

### KEY MESSAGES & QUICK FACTS

The City has tested over 150 wells where it believes PFCs could be present based on the known pattern of groundwater flow. Test results are typically available within four weeks of sample collection.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a lifetime health advisory level for PFCs in May 2016. The health advisory level has been set with a sufficient margin of protection for a lifetime of exposure to PFOA and PFOS from drinking water, including for sensitive populations such as children. PFOA refers to perfluorooctanoic acid; PFOS refers to perfluorooctane sulfonate.

The City has adopted the EPA lifetime health advisory level of **70 nanograms per liter (ng/L)** for PFOS, PFOA, or the sum of the two as the level above which action should be taken to reduce exposure in drinking water.

The health advisory level has been set based on the latest peer-reviewed science. However, the human health risks associated with PFC exposure have not been definitively established.

The City has confirmed that PFCs are present above the lifetime health advisory level in groundwater at the RFTC and in some private wells. The occupants of these homes and businesses have been offered bottled water delivery at no cost, and many have been connected to the municipal water system.

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

From 1984 to 2004, firefighters from the City of Fairbanks and other agencies used Aqueous Film Forming Foam, a firefighting agent that contained PFCs, during training to extinguish petroleum fires at the RFTC. The former burn pit has been excavated and removed from the site.

For more information, please visit:

[www.fairbanksalaska.us/rftc-groundwater-contamination/](http://www.fairbanksalaska.us/rftc-groundwater-contamination/)

### CONTACTS

#### For questions about well testing & study:

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#### For regulatory questions:

Alaska Dept of Environmental Conservation,  
Contaminated Sites Program

[Robert Burgess](mailto:Robert.Burgess@alaska.gov), Environmental Program  
Specialist III

Phone 907-451-2153

Email [robert.burgess@alaska.gov](mailto:robert.burgess@alaska.gov)

[www.dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/sites/  
FairbanksFireTrainingCenter.htm](http://www.dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/sites/FairbanksFireTrainingCenter.htm)

#### For questions about PFC health effects:

Alaska Dept of Health & Social Services  
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#### For questions about RFTC & all other inquiries:

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