

## PFAS RESPONSE & ACTIONS WISCONSIN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

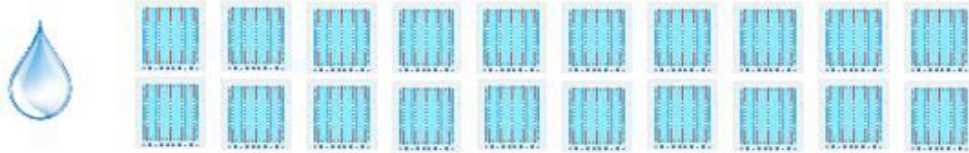
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### What are PFOS and PFOA?

Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), are two types of fluorinated organic chemical that are part of a larger group of chemicals referred to as perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFOS/PFOA are commonly used in household items such as non-stick cookware, clothing, shoes, furniture, and carpets.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a new drinking water Lifetime Health Advisory (LHA) for PFOS/PFOA. The new drinking water LHA is 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOS/PFOA, individually or combined.

*For context, one (1) ppt is equivalent to one (1) drop of water in 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools.*



Since the 1970s, the Army has been using Aqueous Film Forming foam (AFFF), a firefighting agent used to suppress fuel fires. AFFF contains both PFOS/PFOA and is commonly used by civilian firefighters as well. The Army ceased the use of PFOS-containing AFFF, except for emergencies and is collaborating with the Navy and the rest of DoD in its assessments of substitutes for PFOS containing AFFF.

[Reference: <https://www.denix.osd.mil/army-pfas/>]

The National Guard Bureau is in the process of reviewing the inventory of potential PFOS/PFOA source areas where Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) was stored or used (e.g. fire training areas, aviation assets, etc.). In response to this, two Preliminary Assessments (PA) were initiated in the spring of 2019 at our Aviation Facilities located at the West Bend Airport and Dane County Regional Airport in Madison.

## **Army Aviation Support Facility #2 – Madison, WI**

The Wisconsin Army National Guard maintains UH-60 Blackhawks to conduct a wide array of training missions and real-world domestic operations missions in support of the National Guard's state and federal missions. Here in Wisconsin, Wisconsin Army National Guard helicopters are critical components of domestic operations and the support the National Guard provides to civil authorities including wildfire response, search and rescue, aerial observation, medical transport, and more in terrain that is remote or difficult for ground forces or civil authorities to reach. Response time for rotary assets is 4 hours from initial notification. The site includes aircraft hangars and facilities to conduct helicopter maintenance.

### **CERCLA Preliminary Assessment (PA)**

In 2019-2020, a Preliminary Assessment (PA) for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)-containing materials was completed for Army Aviation Support Facility # 2 in Madison as part of the Army National Guard's nationwide effort to evaluate facilities where AFFF may have been stored or used. Although the PA did not find evidence of PFAS release at AASF 2, the report concluded that due to the past presence of several 60-gallon TriMax fire extinguishers at the facility, a Site Inspection (SI) phase would follow. WIARNG shared a copy of the PA report with WDNR.

### **CERCLA Site Inspection (SI)**

The SI involves the collection of soil and groundwater samples with the goal of determining whether there has been a release to the environment and determine the presence or absence of PFAS compounds above screening levels. WDNR is involved with this effort, which began in 2021 with the field work scheduled for late 2021 or early 2022.

## **Army Aviation Support Facility - West Bend, WI**

The Wisconsin Army National Guard maintains UH-60 Blackhawks and UH-72A Lakota Light Utility Helicopters to conduct a wide array of training and real-world domestic operations support missions to include civil search-and-rescue reconnaissance, and medical rescues in terrain that is remote or difficult for ground forces to reach. Response time for rotary assets is 4 hours from initial notification. The site includes aircraft hangars and facilities to conduct helicopter maintenance.

### **CERCLA Preliminary Assessment (PA)**

In 2019, a Preliminary Assessment (PA) for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)-containing materials was completed for the West Bend Army Aviation Support Facility as part of the Army National Guard's nationwide effort to evaluate facilities where AFFF may have been stored or used.

The PA was completed, and the PA Report was shared with the WDNR. The PA identified two areas of interest at the AASF: Fire Suppression System Testing, and an area where AFFF was released during fire training activities (TriMax™ Release).

## **CERCLA Site Inspection (SI)**

Based on the results of the PA, a Site Inspection (SI) was initiated by Army National Guard and the SI planning document, called an SI-QAPP, was prepared and shared with the WDNR. Prior to starting the SI field work, a meeting was held with stakeholders to discuss the scope of the field investigation, locations and numbers of soil and groundwater samples. WDNR comments were incorporated in the overall SI scope. The SI field effort began with a WDNR representative onsite to observe the marking of sampling locations, and field work activities. Preliminary results from the SI were shared with WDNR in May 2021, and additional sampling is planned for fall 2021.

## **Drinking Water**

In response to the new drinking water standards, the Army proactively implemented a comprehensive PFOS/PFOA approach to manage risk to Army Soldiers, families, and civilians from PFOS/PFOA in drinking water. In 2017, the Army completed enterprise-wide sampling of drinking water at all Army operated drinking water systems to ensure drinking water supplies meet EPA guidelines.

### **Sawyer County - Hayward Well:**

In Wisconsin, the Army National Guard operates one drinking water system, a well at the Hayward Field Maintenance Shop located in Sawyer County. The Hayward Well was sampled for PFAS in 2017 and again in 2020. No PFAS was found exceeding the method reporting level (MRL). Potable water for most of our other facilities comes from local municipal water sources. These locations fall under the EPA for testing requirements.