

REGULATORY & OVERSIGHT AGENCIES

Regulatory and oversight agencies develop and enforce environmental laws to help protect public health and the environment and other stakeholder organizations provide input to protect their interest.



Environmental Protection Agency

The EPA is authorized by Congress to create and enforce regulations to protect human health and the environment. CERCLA site identification, monitoring and response activities are coordinated through a state agency.

US EPA, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
(202)-564-4700
<https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-9-pacific-southwest>

<https://www.epa.gov/pfas>



Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

More than 6 million people in Arizona get drinking water from a regulated public water system overseen by ADEQ. ADEQ helps measure drinking water quality through required scheduled tests of all public water systems for a wide variety of potential contaminants.

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
1110 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602)-771-2300
<https://azdeq.gov>



Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

We rely on the expertise of ATSDR to communicate information on the potential public health risks associated with PFOS/PFOA exposures to state and local officials.

ATSDR Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
Suite 9410, M/S:HHS-1
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415)-947-4316
<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/dro/r9.html>

For more information about the PFOS/PFOA health assessment visit <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/PFAS-Exposure-Assessments.html>



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH SERVICES

Arizona Department of Health Services

The mission of the Arizona Dept of Health Services is to promote, protect, and improve the health and wellness of individuals and communities in Arizona. They will work with ATSDR to communicate potential PFOS/PFOA health risks.

Arizona Department of Health Services
150 N. 18th Ave
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602)-542-1025
<https://www.azdhs.gov>

AIR FORCE POINTS OF CONTACT



Luke AFB Public Affairs

For more information on the Luke or Gila Bend PFOS/PFOA SI or expanded SI, contact Luke Public Affairs at 623-856-6011 or email 56fw.pa@us.af.mil



Air Force Civil Engineer Center

For more information on the Air Force response to PFOS/PFOA, please visit <http://www.afcec.af.mil/WhatWeDo/Environment/Perfluorinated-Compounds/>

Questions on the Air Force response should be directed to Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center Public Affairs at 1-866-725-7617 or email afimsc.pa.workflow@us.af.mil

Response to PFOS/PFOA in Drinking Water

Luke AFB and Gila Bend AFAF, Arizona

April 2019

BACKGROUND: WHAT ARE PFOS AND PFOA?

Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) are synthetic fluorinated organic compounds used in many industrial and consumer products such as nonstick cookware, stain-resistant fabric and carpet and some food packaging – known for their unique ability to repel oil and water.

In 1970, the Air Force began using Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF), which contains PFOS/PFOA. AFFF is the most efficient extinguishing method for petroleum fires and is widely used across the firefighting industry, to include all commercial airports, to protect people and property.

On May 19, 2016, the EPA established Lifetime Health Advisory levels of 70 parts per trillion for separate and combined PFOS and PFOA concentrations in drinking water.

AIR FORCE RESPONSE TO PFOS/PFOA

AFCEC is taking a three-step approach – identify, respond, prevent – to assess and respond to potential PFOS/PFOA drinking water contamination.

The Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC) began a comprehensive assessment process in 2010 to identify locations where PFOS/ PFOA may have been released as part of firefighting activities across the Air Force at active, Reserve, Air National Guard and closed installations.

In 2017, the Air Force completed enterprise-wide sampling of drinking water at all installations — stateside and overseas — to ensure drinking water supplies meet EPA guidelines.

In the U.S., AFCEC is conducting additional sampling to identify potential AFFF releases, determine the extent of the PFOS/PFOA contamination and map possible pathways to drinking sources.

The Air Force's investigation work and mitigation actions for drinking water are guided by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, or CERCLA, any applicable state laws, and the EPA's drinking water health advisories (some of our partners in this are listed on the back of this sheet).

The Air Force has replaced legacy AFFF with a new, more environmentally responsible formula that contains no PFOS and only trace amounts of PFOA.

ACTIONS AT LUKE AND GILA BEND

Drinking water on Luke is safe for human consumption.

AFCEC conducted a Site Inspection (SI) collecting soil, sediment, surface water and groundwater samples in Fall 2017 at Luke and Gila Bend AFAF.

Preliminary findings from the SI show PFOS and PFOA levels above the EPA LHA of 70 parts per trillion were detected in on-base groundwater and surface water at Luke. The EPA has not established or mandated a nationwide enforceable standard for drinking water nor has it promulgated standards for ground or surface water. In the absence of a standard for PFOA and PFOA the Air Force uses the advisory levels for drinking water as the standard for ground and surface water during site inspections.

Because of detection above the EPA LHA advisory levels, an Expanded SI will begin immediately to determine if other areas have been impacted by PFOS and PFOA. The expanded inspection will involve requesting to survey privately owned wells within 1-mile downgradient of Luke.

Luke replaced legacy AFFF in its fire vehicles in summer 2017 and all but one aircraft hangars with the replacement foam in fall 2018. Gila Bend replaced legacy AFFF in its fire vehicles fall 2016 with retrofitting occurring in summer 2017. There are no aircraft hangars at Gila Bend.