



What are PFOS/PFOA?

www.afcec.af.mil/WhatWeDo/Environment/Perfluorinated-Compounds/

PFOS and PFOA

- Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)
- Part of a man-made class of chemicals called perfluorinated compounds (PFCs)
- Are long lasting in the environment
- Used since the 1950s in many products because of their stain and water repellent properties:
 - Fire-fighting foam (aqueous film forming foam –AFFF)
 - Stains, paints, and grease
 - Fabric for upholstered furniture
 - Carpets
 - Nonstick cookware
 - Floor wax
 - Food packaging such as, lining of microwave popcorn bags and fast food wrappers
- Globally distributed in the environment and have been detected in the blood of humans, wildlife, and fish

Unregulated Contaminants

- There are no Safe Drinking Water Act regulatory limits for PFOS/PFOA
- U.S. EPA uses the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) program to collect data for emerging contaminants suspected to be present in drinking water
- As science on health effects of these chemicals evolves, EPA will continue to evaluate new evidence.

Health Advisory Level

EPA established a health advisory level in 2016 to provide Americans, including the most sensitive populations, with a margin of protection from a lifetime of exposure to PFOS and PFOA from drinking water.

U.S. EPA Level for PFOS/PFOA combined is 70 parts per trillion (PPT)*

EPA's health advisories are non-enforceable, non-regulatory standards and provide technical information to state agencies and other public health officials on health effects associated with drinking water contaminants.



The Air Force has replaced Legacy AFFF (Firefighting Foam) Stockpiles with a new formula in Fire Emergency Vehicles.

AFFF	aqueous film forming foam	PFOA	perfluorooctanoic acid
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	PFOS	perfluorooctane sulfonate
PFC	perfluorinated compounds	ppt	parts per trillion



How PFOS/PFOA Could Move into Drinking Water

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