

PFAS FAQs

- What is PFAS? PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl substances) is a "forever chemical" designed to be resistant to biological, chemical, and thermal breakdown. It is found in many products, such as non-stick pans, water repellent fabrics and applications, microwave popcorn, pizza boxes and even some brands of dental floss. It is also found in fire-fighting foams used by some fire departments, and at all commercial service airports in the United States. Because PFAS is used in so many applications, most Americans have some level of PFAS in their bloodstreams.
- Why is PFAS used at Airports? The FAA currently requires all fire departments at airports served by airlines to use Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) containing PFAS to extinguish aircraft fires. AFFF with PFAS is required by the FAA because it is extremely stable and does not react with other chemicals, including jet fuel. AFFF extinguishes fires by sequestering fuel sources from oxygen, thus preventing them from reignition.
- Why is PFAS a problem? PFAS has not been classified by the EPA as a hazardous substance or a carcinogen. However, some studies have linked PFAS exposure to health issues. More studies are therefore underway. In the meantime, the EPA has issued a "health advisory" for PFAS, setting a *lifetime* limit of 70 ppt (parts per trillion) for drinking water. A lifetime limit is based of an individual that consumes eight glasses of water everyday throughout their lifetime.
- What is being done regarding AFFF use at airports nationally? The FAA is currently looking into the certification of a fire-fighting foam that does not contain PFAS with a goal to find a replacement by 2021. Until the FAA approves such a product, all US commercial service airports are legally required to have and use AFFF for aircraft firefighting.
- What has been done at the JH Airport? JH Airport's fire department updated its training practices several years ago to eliminate active sprays of AFFF. Though periodic tests are still required by the FAA to determine the product's usefulness, AFFF is now contained during these tests, and not released into the environment.

In the event of a direct, fire-related life safety moment, AFFF would be deployed to save lives. However, JH Airport's procedures after an emergency event have also been updated to contain potential spread of AFFF.

- What more is being done at the JH Airport? JH Airport has worked with environmental consultants who are experts in PFAS to determine if PFAS exists on the Airport from prior use. We learned this year that PFAS does exist in some monitoring wells on the Airport. We are now working with the consultants to test off-Airport water wells to determine if PFAS has spread to these wells, and if so, whether it is above EPA's advisory limits.
- Does my home water filtration system work for PFAS? Many household filters, such as sand and granular activated carbon (GAC) are only partially effective at removing PFAS from drinking water.
- Is there a concern with using my water to bathe, wash dishes, etc.? The primary method of exposure to PFAS for humans is ingestion through drinking water. Research is ongoing to better understand other pathways of exposure such as inhalation and dermal contact. Visit the

EPA's PFAS webpage for information on exposure to PFAS - <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/basic-information-pfas#health>

- How soon can my well be tested? Appointments for testing can be scheduled as soon as we receive your questionnaire and agreement, understanding that orders and guidelines associated with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may adjust the schedule. Currently, appointments can be made for testing starting Monday, August 24th.

What's next? In determining our next steps locally, JH Airport will maintain open communications with Wyoming DEQ, the FAA and other agencies to stay up to date with the latest information regarding a replacement for AFFF, and changes to regulations. Our number one priority at the JH Airport is the safety of our operations – both for passengers and the surrounding community. Along with safety, we also make environmental stewardship a vital part of everything we do. Once the FAA greenlights a replacement for AFFF, we will be making that change as soon as possible.

