



## Alaska International Airport System Fairbanks International Airport

6450 Airport Way, Suite 1  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709  
Main: 907.474.2500  
Fax: 907.474.2513  
Website: [www.fai.alaska.gov](http://www.fai.alaska.gov)

### FAI PFAS Fact Sheet

May 2024

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manmade chemicals that have been used for a wide variety of residential, commercial, and industrial uses. PFAS are considered an emerging environmental contaminant, and the health effects are not well known, but studies have linked them to increased risk of certain cancers, decreased fertility and developmental delays. The presumed source of PFAS in groundwater near the Fairbanks International Airport (FAI) is the use of Aqueous Film-Forming Foams (AFFF) used at aircraft rescue and firefighting (ARFF) training areas. Upon discovery of the presence of PFAS in the groundwater around FAI, Shannon & Wilson was hired to test private well supplies for PFAS and explore the scope of the contamination.

FAI began with testing private wells in the surrounding areas to identify wells whose PFAS concentration were above the EPA's former health advisory level for drinking water of 70 parts per Trillion for PFOS, PFOA or the sum of the two. Once identified the affected wells, were hooked up to the College Utilities water system to provide clean drinking water.

Fairbanks International Airport (FAI) has been proactive in preventing further PFAS contamination and in monitoring and limiting the spread of the current plume. The Former Fire Training area has been capped to prevent additional leaching of PFAS contaminants into the groundwater. Additionally, FAI has participated in several pilot study programs aimed at reducing and containing PFAS contamination.

The first pilot program, known as Plumestop, involved injecting Colloidal Activated Carbon to encapsulate a portion of the PFAS plume, thereby sequestering the contamination and preventing further spread. FAI then partnered with Shannon & Wilson, Aquagga Inc., and A.C.E.S., a division of ASRC, for the FAA PFAS mitigation study. This project employed proprietary technologies developed by Aquagga and A.C.E.S. to successfully

destroy PFAS compounds found in contaminated groundwater and soils.

Furthermore, FAI is in the process of converting our firefighting vehicles from PFAS-containing AFFF to a newly approved PFAS-free option. FAI will continue to conduct regular groundwater monitoring to track any changes within the contamination plume, ensuring the ongoing protection of our environment and community.

#### **For questions about well testing and study:**

Shannon and Wilson Inc.

Ashley Jaramillo, Senior Chemist

Phone: 907-251-7534

Email: [Ashley.Jaramillo@shanwil.com](mailto:Ashley.Jaramillo@shanwil.com)

#### **For regulatory questions:**

Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Robert Burgess, Contaminated Sites Program

Phone: 907-451-2153

Email: [Robert.Burgess@alaska.gov](mailto:Robert.Burgess@alaska.gov)

#### **For questions pertaining to FAI:**

Jake Matter, Environmental Manager

Phone: 907-474-2598

Email: [Jake.Matter@alaska.gov](mailto:Jake.Matter@alaska.gov)

*"Keep Alaska Flying and Thriving."*