



Gustavus Airport Firefighting Testing Area PFAS Factsheet
Updated Sept. 20, 2018

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 emerging environmental contaminants and the health effects are not well known.

DOT&PF was alerted in late July 2018 to concentrations of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in the groundwater at Gustavus Airport. The presumed source of PFAS in groundwater at the Gustavus Airport is the Federal Aviation Administration-mandated use of fire-fighting foams at Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) testing areas.

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) groups five similar compounds into a combined PFAS action level of 70 parts per trillion. Out of caution, DEC will require the provision of alternative drinking water to affected properties with levels above 65 parts per trillion.

DOT&PF worked with an environmental consulting firm, Shannon & Wilson, Inc., and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to identify and sample private water wells south of the airport as well as retest the two previously sampled wells beginning Monday, August 27, 2018. Based on those sample results, DOT&PF is conducting further sampling west of the airport beginning the week of September 24, 2018.

PFAS discovered in several wells on the Gustavus Airport property and 3 private wells off property are reported in concentrations above DEC action levels. Concentrations at most private wells and the well which serving the National Park Service water system are below DEC action levels.

Generalized sample results and the additional sampling area is available at www.alaska.gov/go/C732.

Website: www.alaska.gov/go/C732

For questions about testing & study:

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