



**Gustavus Airport Firefighting Testing Area PFAS Factsheet**  
**Updated Oct 23, 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 has worked with an environmental consulting firm, Shannon & Wilson, Inc., to identify and sample private water wells around the airport. Sampling was conducted in August 2018 and late September / early October 2018.

Based on those samples, PFAS in several wells on the Gustavus Airport property and a number of private wells off property are reported in concentrations above DEC action levels. Concentrations at many private wells and the well which serves the National Park Service water system are below DEC action levels. Many sampled private wells show negligible PFAS levels. The northern and eastern edges of the plume are defined. Shannon & Wilson, Inc. will be conducting further sampling west of the airport beginning October 31, 2018.

DOT&PF is providing alternative drinking water to homes with PFAS levels over DEC action levels. Together with DEC, the Alaska Department of Administration, and engineering consultants, DOT&PF is beginning to assess options for long-term solution to provide clean drinking water.

**Website:** [www.alaska.gov/go/C732](http://www.alaska.gov/go/C732)

**For questions about testing & study:**

Shannon & Wilson, Inc.  
Kristen Freiburger, Project Manager  
Phone: 907-479-0600  
Email: [krf@shanwil.com](mailto:krf@shanwil.com)

**For regulatory questions:**

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
Contaminated Site Program  
Danielle Duncan, Environmental Program Specialist  
Phone: 907-465-5207  
Email: [danielle.duncan@alaska.gov](mailto:danielle.duncan@alaska.gov)

**For questions about PFAS health effects:**

Alaska Department of Health & Social Services  
Kristin Bridges, Public Health Scientist  
Phone: 907-269-8028  
Email: [kristin.bridges@alaska.gov](mailto:kristin.bridges@alaska.gov)

**For questions about claims:**

Alaska Department of Administration  
Scott Jordan, Risk Management Director  
Phone: 907-465-5723  
Email: [scott.jordan@alaska.gov](mailto:scott.jordan@alaska.gov)

**For questions about Gustavus Airport Firefighting training area and all other inquiries:**

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public  
Facilities, Southcoast Region  
Aurah Landau, Public Information Officer  
Phone: 907-465-4503  
Email: [airportwater@alaska.gov](mailto:airportwater@alaska.gov)