



Texas Military Department (TMD) DRINKING WATER SAMPLING RESULTS NOTIFICATION

One TMD Drinking water well removed from the water system after
exceedance of new EPA lifetime health advisory
* This notice pertains to people who work at the El Campo Armory only

BOTTOM LINE

Over the past several months, the Army National Guard (ARNG) tested drinking water on its installations to ensure levels of Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) are below the May 2016 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Lifetime Health Advisory (LHA) level of 70 or fewer parts per trillion (ppt). ARNG tested two installations in Texas and identified one, the El Campo Armory, with levels exceeding 70 ppt. Since receiving the findings, TMD removed the source from public consumption and will take further action as necessary (e.g., shutting down well, connecting to municipal water supplies, etc.) to ensure that water is below the LHA. ARNG will conduct future testing to ensure drinking water remains below the LHA.

PFOS and PFOA are manmade chemicals found in many consumer and industrial products. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) reports that most people in the United States have PFOS and/or PFOA in their blood, regardless of age. In addition to drinking water, examples of ways individuals are exposed to PFOS and PFOA include consuming food cooked using cookware with non-stick coatings or inhalation of household dust generated from coatings on clothing and carpets.

***EPA lifetime health advisory level**

Health Advisory levels include a significant margin of safety to ensure they are protective of even the most sensitive populations. Until more research is conducted to confirm or rule out the possible associations between PFOS and PFOA exposure and potential negative health effects, the Army is being proactive and reducing PFOS and PFOA exposure in drinking water to the extent possible. If you have concerns about your health or the health of your family members please contact your primary healthcare provider or pediatrician.

TMD procured bulk water through a contractor to meet the immediate drinking water needs of facility personnel.

TMD leadership is committed to providing safe drinking water for everyone served by TMD water systems. They are working to identify, fix and prevent adverse impacts created by these chemicals in TMD's water supply.

BACKGROUND - TIMELINE

Background

PFOS and PFOA are manufactured fluorinated organic chemicals. They were used in carpets, clothing, furniture fabric, paper packaging for food, and other materials (e.g., cookware) that is resistant to water, grease or stains. Also, PFOS and PFOA are components of Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF), a firefighting foam used by industry and DoD since 1970 to fight petroleum fires.

Use of AFFF that contained PFOS and PFOA was discontinued more than 20 years ago. TMD firefighters no longer train with it.

While consumer products and food are the primary exposure sources, drinking water can be an exposure source in a small percentage of communities where these chemicals contaminated drinking water supplies. Such contamination is typically local and associated with a specific facility where the chemicals were produced, used to manufacture other products, or used for airfield firefighting. It is not known yet what the source of the chemical contamination is at our El Campo facility. Further tests are being scheduled for the future.

Timeline

May 2016: EPA issued a LHA level for PFOS and PFOA in drinking water of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) (or 0.07 µg/l) for each chemical; or if PFOS and PFOA both appear in a drinking water sample, the combined LHA level is also 70 ppt. As part of the ARNG's commitment to supplying quality drinking water to its service members, family members, and civilians, the ARNG implemented a comprehensive PFOS and PFOA testing program.

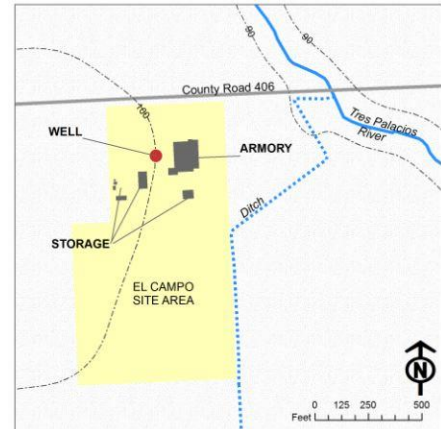
April 2017: ARNG tested two TMD wells in April 2017 for PFOS/PFOA.

The El Campo well served the El Campo Armory and Facility Maintenance Shop. The PFOS/PFOA reading of the El Campo Well was 79 ppt.

The other well tested is the Camp Bowie Musgrave House Well. The PFOS/PFOA reading of the Camp Bowie Well fell below 70 ppt.

May 2017: TMD received test results from NGB and verified the El Campo well exceeded the 70 ppt EPA advisory level. TMD immediately shut down and isolated the water supply.

July 2017: ARNG will begin testing on the El Campo well to identify a source area.



TMD NOTIFICATION

The TMD Construction Facilities Maintenance Office is providing this public notice to users of the TMD drinking water system in accordance with EPA Safe Drinking Water Act guidelines. The National Guard Bureau has copies of all PFOS/PFOA data collected to date. As more information becomes available, updates will be provided.

TMD WAY FORWARD

The TMD – Construction Facilities Maintenance Office has taken the following actions:

Wells: The El Campo Armory well that tested above the 70 ppt EPA lifetime Public Health Advisory Level is isolated from service and will remain in this status indefinitely. TMD is providing an alternate drinking water supply to personnel in anticipation of future training events. TMD is assessing a carbon filtration system or a service agreement with the city of El Campo.

Other Actions:

- Notice of this situation is being provided to all consumers.
- Investigation for treatment options for the affected well is underway.
- Other TMD source wells were sampled and did not exceed the 70 ppt health advisory.
- ARNG will begin testing on the El Campo well to identify a source area. Before the isolated well is returned to use, public notice will be provided, which will include additional test results for PFOS and PFOA and an explanation of treatment or other actions taken to return the well to service.
- When additional information becomes available this public notice will be updated.
- TMD will continue to work closely with subject matter experts from the Office of the Army Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, the Army Public Health Center, and the National Guard Bureau to ensure appropriate steps are taken regarding PFOS and/or PFOA in drinking water.

If you have specific health concerns regarding your exposure, you should consult your doctor.

POTENTIAL ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS WITH EXPOSURE TO PFOS AND PFOA

In May 2016, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a Lifetime Health Advisory (LHA) level in drinking water of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOS/PFOA (individually or combined if both are detected in drinking water). EPA's LHA levels include a significant margin of safety to ensure they are protective of the most sensitive sub-populations while drinking the water over a lifetime. The EPA LHA levels are based on the effects of

PFOS and PFOA on laboratory animals and epidemiological studies of human populations. For context, one (1) ppt is equivalent to one (1) drop of water in 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

The ATSDR recently concluded that studies performed to date in humans and animals are inconsistent and inconclusive, and additional research is needed to determine the effects of PFOS and PFOA. ATSDR also states that a connection between PFOS and PFOA exposure and cancers continues to be evaluated. As science on health effects of these chemicals evolves, EPA will continue to evaluate new evidence.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PFOS and PFOA SEE:

EPA's Drinking Water Health Advisories for PFOS and PFOA can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>

EPA's FACT SHEET for PFOS and PFOA Drinking Water Health Advisories can be found at: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-06/documents/drinkingwaterhealthadvisories_pfoa_pfos_updated_5.31.16.pdf

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health Statements for PFOS and PFOA can be found at: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/phs/phs.asp?id=1115&tid=237>

For more detailed information about PFOS and PFOA, please read the list of frequently asked questions at the above link.

For questions, please contact TMD Public Affairs at 512-782-5620 or ng.tx.txarng.mbx.pao@mail.mil