

## CY2023 PFAS Info Sheet

### **What are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and where do they come from?**

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of thousands of man-made chemicals. PFAS have been used in a variety of industrial and consumer products around the globe, including in the U.S., for decades. Due to their widespread use and environmental persistence, most people in the United States have been exposed to certain PFAS. PFAS have been used to make coatings and products that are used as oil and water repellents for carpets, clothing, paper packaging for food, and cookware. They are also contained in some foams (aqueous film-forming foam or AFFF) used for fighting petroleum fires.

### **Is there a federal regulation for PFAS in drinking water?**

There is currently no federal drinking water standard for any PFAS compounds. In May 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established a lifetime drinking water health advisory (HA) level at 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for individual or combined concentrations of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). Both chemicals are types of PFAS.

*In California there is a PFAS drinking water regulation.*

DoD must follow state standards when they are not the main purveyor supplying the drinking water. The State continues to monitor for PFAS, with the first phase of testing completed in November 2021. Testing over the next two years will evaluate treatment performance for Southern California.

The Department of Defense (DoD) issued a policy in 2020 to monitor drinking water for PFAS at all DoD owned and operated water systems at a minimum of every three years. The DoD policy states that if water sampling results confirm that drinking water contains PFOA and PFOS at individual or combined concentrations greater than the 2016 EPA HA level of 70 ppt, water systems would 1) take immediate action to reduce exposure to PFOS or PFOA, to include providing alternative drinking water; and 2) undertake additional sampling to assess the level, scope, and localized source of contamination.]

### **What about the EPA's 2022 interim Health Advisories or proposed regulations?**

EPA issued interim Health Advisories for PFOS and PFOA in 2022. However, these newer levels are below quantifiable limits (i.e., below detection levels). EPA announced a proposed regulation on PFAS drinking water standards for public comment on March 14, 2023. The Department supports EPA taking regulatory actions to address PFAS, including a drinking water standard for PFAS that will apply to all drinking water suppliers once final. DoD respects and values the public comment process on this proposed nationwide drinking water rule and looks forward to the clarity that a final regulatory drinking water standard for PFAS will provide.

In anticipation of this EPA drinking water regulation and to account for emerging science that shows potential health effects of PFOS and PFOA at levels lower than 70 ppt, DoD is evaluating its efforts to address PFAS in drinking water, and what actions we can take to be prepared to

incorporate this standard, such as reviewing our current data and collecting additional sampling where necessary. DoD remains committed to communicating and engaging with our communities throughout this process.

**Has Los Angeles Air Force Base and Fort MacArthur tested its water for PFAS?**

As Los Angeles AFB and Fort MacArthur purchase their water from the El Segundo Water Department and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), DOD guidance has the installation abide by the water purveyor's response to PFAS. Studies for the collection of PFAS has not been completed but is expected to conclude its assessment by the end of 2023.