

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Yuma Public Water System (PWS) 14082 Detectable Levels of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Marine Corps Air Station Yuma routinely monitors for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Department of Defense (DoD) policy issued on 11 July 2023 required testing of all DoD-owned drinking water systems for PFAS by 31 December 2023. Samples from the MCAS Yuma Water Treatment Plant were collected on 11 Sept 2023 and results were received on 3 Oct 2023. Those results reported concentrations of four detected PFAS as listed in Table 1 below. MCAS Yuma, PWS 14082 provides drinking water to residents and occupants located in the main station and housing only ([DISTRIBUTION AREA DESCRIPTOR] – see Figure 1).

There is currently no federal drinking water standard for any PFAS chemical. In accordance with the 11 July 2023 DoD policy, we are required to monitor drinking water for PFAS at a minimum of every two years and notify the public of detectable PFAS in the drinking water supplied by DoD-owned drinking water systems. DoD policy also requires us to take action to provide alternative drinking water if the concentrations of Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) exceed 70 parts per trillion (ppt) (also expressed as nanograms per liter [ng/L]), individually or combined. The sample results are below these levels.

The health and well-being of our service members, their families, and civilian employees remains a high priority for us, and we will continue to work to protect the drinking water on the installation. We will continue to regularly sample drinking water to ensure health and maintain compliance with established standards.

Table 1: MCAS Yuma PWS 14082 Finished Water PFAS Results

PFAS Analyte	Abbreviation	Result (ppt)	DoD Action Level (ppt)
PerfluoroButanoic Acid	PFBA	2.6	70
Perfluoroheptanoic Acid	PFHpA	1.9	70
Perfluorohexanoic Acid	PFHxA	1.8	70
Perfluorooctanoic Acid	PFOA	2.3	70

What are Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and where do they come from?

PFAS are a group of thousands of man-made chemicals that have been used in a variety of industrial and consumer products around the world for decades. Due to their widespread use and environmental persistence, most people have been exposed to certain PFAS. They have been used to make coatings and products that are used as oil and water repellents in carpets, clothing, paper packaging for food, and cookware. They are also contained in some aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) used for fighting petroleum fires at airfields and for industrial fire suppression.

What does this mean?

Research is still ongoing to understand the mechanisms of PFAS toxicity. The risk of health effects associated with PFAS depends on exposure factors (dose, frequency, route, duration), individual factors (sensitivity and chronic disease burden), and other determinants of health. The epidemiological evidence suggests associations between increases in exposure to specific PFAS and certain health effects. For specific information about the health effects of PFAS exposure, please visit <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/>.

Are there regulations for PFAS in drinking water?

There are currently no federal drinking water regulatory standards for any PFAS compounds. Until regulations are finalized, the DoD issued a policy on 11 July 2023 establishing action levels requiring alternative drinking water to be provided if individual or combined concentrations of PFOA and PFOS exceed 70 ppt for DoD-owned drinking water systems worldwide. DoD installations are also required to post sampling results of detected PFAS on each installation's public webpage and in the drinking water system's Consumer Confidence Report(s) (accessible at [[Environmental Division \(marines.mil\)](https://www.marines.mil)]).

What about the EPA's 2023 proposed regulations?¹

In March 2023, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulation that would establish MCLs for six PFAS: PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, HFPO-DA (GenX Chemicals), PFHxS, and PFBS. The EPA anticipates finalizing the regulation in 2024, which will include a timeline for compliance.. The DoD supports the EPA taking regulatory actions to address PFAS, including a drinking water standard that will apply to all drinking water suppliers once final.

What is being done?

MCAS Yuma will continue to monitor for PFAS in the treated drinking water for PWS 14082 on a semi-annual basis and take appropriate action, as required. Additionally, MCAS Yuma in coordination with Marine Corps Installations Command and joint service partners will continue to evaluate the potential need for mitigation measures, as necessary, in anticipation of the new EPA regulation.

What can I do?

There is nothing you need to do, as there is no immediate risk to the general population. You may continue to use the water for all consumptive purposes (drinking, bathing, showering, cooking, dishwashing, and maintaining oral hygiene).

For more information, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-explained>, or send inquiries to Ronald L. Kruse at ronald.kruse@usmc.mil, or call 928-269-3523.

This notice is being sent to you by MCAS Yuma Environmental/Safe Drinking Water Act Program.

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¹ <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/questions-and-answers-drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-pfos-genx-chemicals-and-pfbs>

Figure 1: Buildings served by Public Water System MCAS Yuma 14082

