IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

On 15 April 24, Misawa Air Base conducted base-wide drinking water sampling for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), in accordance with the Air Force Medical Readiness Agency policy letter, *Implementation Guidance, Sampling of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in DoD-Owned Drinking Water Systems*, dated 30 Aug 2023. The table below contains the results of those PFAS detected. The units of measurement are parts per trillion (ppt). Water mitigation is required if the detection level exceeds 70 parts per trillion (ppt). None of the distribution points exceeded the 70 ppt cutoff. For additional guidance on PFAS, use the following link: ASD(EI&E) - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) (osd.mil).

Sample Date	2024/4/15	2024/4/15	2024/4/15	2024/4/15	2024/4/15	2024/4/15
Location	North Area Distribution Point	Security Hill Distribution Point	Draughon Range	Medical Group	Main Base Water Tower 1	Main Base Water Tower 2
Perfluorooctane Sulfonate/Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOS/PFOA)	4.5	Non-detect	13.2	2.5	21.4	22.2
Perfluorohexanoic Acid (PFHxA)	11	Non-detect	3.8	2.4	7.2	7.2
Perfluoroheptanoic Acid (PFHpA)	6.8	Non-detect	4.2	2.2	2.7	2.7
Perfluoropentanoic Acid (PFPeA)	20	Non-detect	5.2	3.2	7.1	7.3
Perfluoropentanesulfonic Acid (PFPeS)	Non-detect	Non-detect	Non-detect	Non-detect	2.6	4
Perfluorobutanoic Acid (PFBA)	3.4	Non-detect	2.1	Non-detect	2.5	2.5
1H,1H,2H,2H-Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid (6:2 FTS)	Non-detect	Non-detect	Non-detect	Non-detect	4.8	4.9
Perfluorohexane Sulfonic Acid (PFHxS)	8.3	Non-detect	4.2	2.3	25	26
Perfluorobutane Sulfonic Acid (PFBS)	Non-detect	Non-detect	Non-detect	Non-detect	3.8	3.7

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.
Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) are in this group of chemicals. PFAS have been used in a variety of industries and consumer products around the globe, including in the U.S., since the 1940s. 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 such as the aqueous film-forming foam used for fighting petroleum fires at airfields and in industrial fire suppression. PFAS chemicals are persistent in the environment, and some are persistent in the human body – meaning they do not break down and they can accumulate over time.

What should I do?

There is no immediate risk for the general population. You can continue to use the installation's water supply.

What does this mean?

The exact effects of long-term exposure to PFAS are currently being investigated; however, so far chronic PFAS exposure has been associated with weakening the body's ability to fight disease, increased risk of cancer, liver damage, and elevated cholesterol levels. Prolonged exposure may also have negative health effects on vulnerable and immunocompromised populations such as pregnancy and children. More information can be viewed at: http://www.epa.gov/

What is being done?

In accordance with DoD policy, the Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight will continue semi-annual monitoring for PFAS until results are below the minimum reporting limit (MRL) for two consecutive sampling events. Presently the MLR is established at 1.9 ppt. Misawa Air Base leadership will continue to evaluate health and future compliance risks, and fully comply with DoD policies. Sampling results will be made public within 30 days of receipt of final validated results.

For more information, please contact Bioenvironmental Engineering at 226-6010 or 0176-77-6010.
This notice is being sent to you by 35th Operational Medical Readiness Squadron, Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight.
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