

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Combined Arms Training Center, Camp Fuji

Drinking Water: Detectable Levels of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

The health and well-being of our service members, their families, and civilian employees remains a high priority for us. The Combined Arms Training Center, Camp Fuji environmental section routinely monitors drinking water for contaminants.

CATC Camp Fuji's water system is not a DoD-owned drinking water system, the water purveyors are Gotemba City, JGSDF and Fuji School's, but Camp Fuji's environmental section tests the drinking water system on a quarterly basis. Per the Japan Environmental Governing Standards and the regulatory policy governing drinking water at United States military installations in Japan, there is no maximum contaminant level established for any PFAS.

Department of Defense policy requires testing for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances in all DoD-owned drinking water systems and notifying the public if any PFAS are detected. DoD policy requires us to take action if the concentrations of Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) exceed 70 parts per trillion (ppt), individually or combined.

Table 1: CATC Camp Fuji PFAS Results

PFAS Analyte	Abbreviation	DoD Action Level (ppt)	Feb. 26, 2024 (ppt)	May 7, 2024 (ppt)	Sept. 10, 2024 (ppt)
Perfluorooctanoic acid	PFOA	70	ND	ND	ND
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid	PFOS	70	ND	ND	2.4
PFOA + PFOS		70	0 (calculated)	0 (calculated)	2.4 (calculated)
Perfluorobutanoic acid	PFBA	None	-	ND	ND
Perfluorohexanoic acid	PFHxA	None	ND	ND	ND
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid	PFHxS	None	ND	ND	ND
Perfluoropentanoic acid	PFPeA	None	-	ND	ND

ND = non-detect

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 for decades. Manufacturers have used PFAS in various industrial and consumer products around the globe, including the United States and Japan. Due to their widespread use and environmental persistence, most people have been exposed to certain PFAS. PFAS is 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 in some aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) used for fighting petroleum fires at airfields and for industrial fire suppression.

What does this mean?

Researchers are still studying and trying to understand PFAS toxicity. The risk of health effects associated with PFAS depends on exposure factors (dose, frequency, route, duration), individual factors (sensitivity and chronic disease), 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, visit the U.S. Center of Disease Control website: www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/.

Are there regulations for PFAS in drinking water?

On April 10, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a final rule on drinking water standards for certain PFAS under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The rule applies to all regulated drinking water purveyors, including DoD. The rule establishes maximum contaminant levels (MCL) for several PFAS in drinking water, sets forth requirements to establish monitoring and notification requirements within three years, and provides five years for regulated drinking water purveyors to comply with the specified MCL levels. The installation is working to protect the drinking water on Camp Fuji and ensure compliance with EPA standards before the deadline of notifying the public within 30 days of the report. This standard is expected to be adopted into the JEGS.

What is being done?

The CATC Camp Fuji environmental section will continue to monitor for PFAS in the drinking water system and take appropriate action, as required. Additionally, the environmental section in coordination with Marine Corps Installation Pacific, Marine Corps Installations Command, and joint service partners, will continue to evaluate the potential need for mitigation measures, as necessary. CATC Camp Fuji will post sampling results of detected PFAS on the installation's public webpage and in the drinking water system's Consumer Confidence Reports accessible at: www.fuji.marines.mil/Environmental/. These efforts and required DoD timelines are prior to EPA requirements noted in their recent regulations.

What can I do?

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

For more information, visit the U.S. EPA website: www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-explained, or send inquiries to CATC Camp Fuji environmental section: charles.r.hill1@usmc.mil, 080-8591-8979, or DSN (315) 224-8401.

This notice is being sent to you by CATC Camp Fuji Environmental Section.

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