



FIRE DEPARTMENT SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Bulletin #55, "Houston, we have a problem," April 22, 2022

There are 2,854 PFAS contaminated sites reported in all 50 states as of October 4, 2021.¹

You may already be aware that 130,000 gallons of toxic Class B firefighting foams were used at the 2019 ITC storage tank fire in Houston, Texas.² Here are some recent states' related PFAS actions listed out.

<u>State</u>	<u>On-going Foam Take Back Program</u>	<u># of water contamination sites</u>	<u>Further Details</u>
Alaska	Proposed	136	136 total wells identified as being over action levels. ³
California	PFAS ban began Jan 1, 2022	146	"At least 146 public water systems serving nearly 16 million Californians have already detected traces of the two most pervasive chemicals — perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) — in their well water..." ⁴
Colorado	Collecting through February 28, 2022	501	501 sites in Colorado ⁵
Connecticut	Launched in 2021 - Two stage program	4 Testing in process	Connecticut is currently inspecting 2,400 sites for PFAS contamination. ⁶
Illinois	Voluntary take-back program is proposed	100+	Illinois is conducting 1,456 entry points testing representing 1,749 community water supplies in Illinois. ⁷ "More than 100 drinking water systems across Illinois, including some in the Chicago area, have tested positive for measurable levels of harmful contaminants known as "forever chemicals" that are linked to cancer, liver damage, high blood pressure and other health threats." ⁸
Indiana	Program beginning February 2022	Testing in process	Indiana has established a 3 stage water testing sampling for PFAS statewide. ⁹
Massachusetts	2018 – 2019	Estimated at 246	"...70% of communities have detectable levels of the six most dangerous PFAS chemicals in their ground and surface waters. When looking at a wider range of PFAS chemicals, 91% of communities have detectable amounts in at least one of their drinking water sources." ¹⁰
Michigan	2019 - 2020	165	"...the number of confirmed PFAS contaminated sites has grown to 165, up from 93 in June 2020." ¹¹
New Hampshire	2018	438	Of the 1,880 sources of drinking water that supply public water systems in New Hampshire, as of September 2020, approximately 78% (1,459 sources) have been sampled for PFAS with approximately 30% of wells having detections of PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, and PFNA. ¹²
New Jersey	Program enacted 2021 – in process	35	"Researchers have identified 35 New Jersey sites where drinking-water tests in recent years reveal contamination with two toxic PFAS chemicals exceed limits now being implemented by state officials." ¹³



FDSA

FIRE DEPT SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

<u>State</u>	<u>On-going Foam Take Back Program</u>	<u># of water contamination sites</u>	<u>Water Contamination</u>
New York	Collected through 2018	8	"8 exceeded NYS's PFOA MCL of 10 ppt. 8 additional wells would exceed Michigan's PFOA standard of 8 ppt." ¹⁴
Rhode Island	2018 - 2019	12	"At least one PFAS compound was found in 445 of the 87 systems that were tested, and 12 systems had levels above 20 ppt for the five chemicals highlighted in the petition." ¹⁵
Texas	Proposed bill / ban	130	"Nearly half a million Texans live within three miles of sites where groundwater has been deemed "extremely" contaminated, a byproduct of firefighters spraying high-tech foam to extinguish blazes at bases since 1970." ¹⁶
Vermont	State partners with local fire departments	8	As part of Act 21, 8 sites have been identified as over limits. ¹⁷
Washington	Ban effective 7/1/2018	Unknown	"On November 3, 2021, the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) published its final PFAS Chemical Action Plan (Plan)..." ¹⁸
Wisconsin	In process – budgeted 2020 / 2021	80	"About 80 PFAS contamination sites have been discovered in Wisconsin, with some of the worst pollution in Marinette, Peshtigo, Madison, and La Crosse." ¹⁹

USEPA has undertaken a federal analysis that has found over 100,000 sites where the carcinogenic chemical has contaminated nearby drinking water wells.²⁰

1 EWG, PFAS Contamination in the U.S., Mapping the PFAS contamination crisis: New data show 2,854 sites in 50 states and two territories, https://www.ewg.org/interactive-maps/pfas_contamination/

2 Houston Public Media, Report: Harmful Chemicals Lingered In Houston Ship Channel For Months After ITC Fire, Katie Watkins, Nov 5, 20, <https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/news/energy-environment/2019/11/05/350842/report-harmful-chemicals-lingered-in-houston-ship-channel-for-months-after-itc-fire/>

3 Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Page updated 8/5/21, <https://dot.alaska.gov/airportwater/>
4 CalMatters, Well water throughout California contaminated with 'forever chemicals,' Rachel Becker, November 19, 2020, updated December 4, 2020, <https://calmatters.org/projects/california-water-contaminated-forever-chemicals/>

5 PFAS "forever chemicals" may seep into Colorado's water from 501 sites, analysis finds, Bruce Finley, July 14, 2021, <https://www.denverpost.com/2021/07/14/pfas-colorado-contamination-water/>

6 How Widespread are PFAS chemicals? CT Officials are about to inspect more than 2,400 locations, CT Mirror, Andrew Brown, <https://pfasproject.com/2021/08/30/how-widespread-are-pfas-chemicals-ct-officials-are-about-to-inspect-more-than-2400-locations/>

7 Illinois EPA, PFAS: Statewide Investigation Network: Community Water Supply Sampling, accessed Dec 23, 2021, <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/water-quality/pfas/Pages/pfas-statewide-investigation-network.aspx>

8 *Chicago Sun Times*, Dangerous 'forever chemicals' found in drinking water of thousands of Illinois residents, Brett Chase, July 30, 2021, <https://chicago.suntimes.com/2021/7/30/22589222/forever-chemicals-illinois-drinking-water-pfas-epa-testing>

9 Indiana Department of Environmental Managements, accessed Dec 23, 2021, <https://www.in.gov/idem/resources/nonrule-policies/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas/>

10 WBUR, 'Forever chemicals' widespread in Mass. surface and ground water, says new report, Barbara Moran, October 29, 2021, <https://www.wbur.org/news/2021/10/29/pfas-chemicals-massachusetts-water-sources-report>

11 Merit Laboratories, Michigan Adds Another 72 PFAS Contaminated Sites; Grows to 165 Sites, May 1, 2021, <https://www.meritlabs.com/blog/2021/5/12/michigan-adds-another-72-pfas-contaminated-sites-grows-to-165-sites>

12 STATUS REPORT ON THE OCCURRENCE OF PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) CONTAMINATION IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, June 2021, https://www4.des.state.nh.us/nh-pfas-investigation/wp-content/uploads/Statewide-PFAS-Occurrence-Status-Report-June_2021.pdf

13 PBS, WHY? NY Spotlight, N.J. home to 35 sites where two PFAS chemicals top new state limits, Jon Hurdle, May 7, 2019, <https://why.org/articles/386766/>

14 Rockland County PFAS drinking water contamination, Riverkeepers, Dan Shapley, January 20, 2021, <https://www.riverkeeper.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Public-Report-2019-Rockland-PFAS-data-Analysis-and-Observations.pdf>

15 *The Providence Journal*, Rules on 'forever chemicals' in drinking water in limbo, Alex Kuffner, Jan 29, 2021, <https://www.providencejournal.com/story/news/local/2021/01/29/state-rules-forever-pfas-chemicals-drinking-water-limbo/4302315001/>

16 Texas Observer, Christopher Collins, June 19, 2019, <https://www.texasobserver.org/nearly-500000-texans-live-in-communities-with-contaminated-groundwater-their-lawmakers-arent-doing-much-about-it/>

17 Vermont, PFAS Roadmap, Agency of Natural Resources, 2021, <https://anrweb.vt.gov/PubDocs/DEC/PFAS/General-info/Vermont-PFAS-Roadmap.pdf>

18 Perkins Coie, Washington's PFAS Chemical Action Plan: Another Piece in the Regulatory Patchwork, Jane Carmody, 11/11/2021, <https://www.idsupra.com/legalnews/washington-s-pfas-chemical-action-plan-8208188/>

19 Up North News, Lawsuit Could Send Wisconsin's PFAS Protections 'Back Into the Dark Ages', Julian Emerson, Sept 20, 2021, <https://upnorthnews.com/2021/09/17/lawsuit-could-send-wisconsins-pfas-protections-back-into-the-dark-ages/>

20 WBFO, NPR, Long Island group releases map of PFAS chemical use in NY, demands federal clean-up, Natalie Discenza, Nov 10, 2021, <https://www.wbfo.org/environment/2021-11-10/long-island-group-releases-a-map-of-pfas-chemical-use-in-ny-demands-federal-clean-up>