

**Q1. What is PFAS (per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances)?**

- A1.** Please visit the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) [www.michigan.gov/PFASresponse](http://www.michigan.gov/PFASresponse), and/or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/basic-information-pfas>

**Q2. What does PFAS have to do with the Airport?**

- A2.** Learning about PFAS and its impacts has become an evolving national conversation. According to the EPA, PFAS is used in many different chemicals, including firefighting foam, certain types of food packaging and some manufacturing practices. The use of firefighting materials known as AFFF, or aqueous film-forming foam, is a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirement for all commercial airports across the country. Currently, all of the AFFF formulations authorized for use by the FAA contain some type of PFAS.

**Q3. Is the Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA) still using products with PFAS?**

- A3.** For air transportation safety, the FAA requires airports like GFIA to use AFFF containing PFAS because of its effectiveness in extinguishing jet-fuel fires. The GFIA took proactive steps by voluntarily moving to an AFFF product that is asserted to have less environmental risk. However, all FAA required AFFF products still contain some form of PFAS.

**Q4. What is being done to understand any potential issues?**

- A4.** GFIA has been actively engaged in a multi-phase evaluation process to assess the potential for PFAS on airport property, with the results from each phase guiding subsequent steps:
- In May 2018, GFIA shared details of its complex, scientific testing process, involving the drilling of five deep monitoring wells and 10 shallow borings on Airport property, and began collecting samples to better characterize existing conditions and other key factors for informing additional investigations based on these results. ([See press release here.](#))
  - In June 2018, GFIA shared its initial groundwater testing results on Airport property, with results indicating PFAS levels less than the State of Michigan cleanup criteria established for groundwater, as protection for drinking water. The results were shared with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), the Kent County Health Department (KCHD), the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and the community. ([See press release here.](#))
  - Although the groundwater test results were within acceptable regulatory levels, GFIA went above and beyond to conduct voluntary, off-site residential well testing. In September 2018, the results of the residential well testing indicated the drinking water at the 28 properties tested all showed non-detect for PFOA and PFOS, the two PFAS compounds that comprise the basis for the Michigan drinking water criteria. Based on the data and results, the Kent County Health Department concurred that there is no need for the Airport to continue additional residential testing. ([See press release here.](#))
  - In early 2019, the MDEQ conducted an independent geological review, which concluded that any PFAS found in groundwater under the Airport (that GFIA had reported in June 2018) does not appear to be related to the Airport's former firefighting training activities. The MDEQ is continuing to explore possible PFAS sources beyond Airport property.

**Q5. In September 2018, GFIA said that there was no need for additional residential well testing near Airport property, so why did MDEQ announce in March 2019 that it will test some additional drinking water wells at homes near the airport?**

- A5.** MDEQ has identified additional sources of PFAS near GFIA. As part of its investigation of potential risk, [MDEQ announced on March 12, 2019 that it would conduct residential well testing in Cascade Township.](#) MDEQ's new project is consistent with the evolving conversations about the breadth of potential PFAS sources and their possible impacts on public health and the

environment. GFIA continues its ongoing collaboration with the MDEQ and its own step-wise investigation.

**Q6. Where can I find further information?**

- A6.** GFIA will continue to share updates and information when new information becomes available. Copies of all news releases on this topic can be found on our website under the “News & Info” tab.
- Additionally, please visit the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) [www.michigan.gov/PFASresponse](http://www.michigan.gov/PFASresponse), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/basic-information-pfas>, and/or the Kent County Health Department [website](#).