



Q1. What is PFAS (polyfluroalkyl substances)?

- A1. Please visit the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) 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 Ford Airport still using products with PFAS?

- A3. For air transportation safety, FAA requires airports like GFIA to use AFFF containing PFAS because of its effectiveness in extinguishing jet-fuel fires. The Ford Airport 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. The Airport 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, the Airport 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, the Airport shared its initial groundwater testing results on GFIA 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 levels, the Airport went above and beyond to conduct off-site residential well testing. In September, 2018, the results of the Airport's area residential well testing indicated the drinking water to be safe; of the 28 properties tested, all showed non-detect PFOA/PFOS results. Based on the data and results, the Kent County Health Department concurred there is no need to continue additional residential testing at this time. ([See press release here.](#))

- Based on these findings, the Airport is focusing on continuing its multi-step evaluation process, including completion of its property site analysis and related report to the MDEQ.

Q5. I've seen reports about sampling of various local rivers and waterways and related PFAS levels. How do these tests/results relate to the Airport?

A5. The MDEQ, as part of its work, has recently performed sampling of area surface waters, including the Thornapple River and a tributary near the Airport that connects to the Thornapple River. These results indicate levels of both PFOS and PFOA below established criteria. At this time, the MDEQ has not requested any further surface water action of the Airport.

Q6. Do you plan to test any more offsite/residential wells?

A6. In September, 2018, results of airport residential well tests were shared with both state and local health officials. Based on these results, no further airport residential testing is warranted at this time.

Q7. Where can I find further information?

A7. The Airport will continue to share updates and information through social media channels, as well as this FAQ page 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, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/basic-information-pfas>, and/or the Kent County Health Department [website](#).