

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

PERFLUOROOCTANE SULFONATE (PFOS) / PERFLUOROOCTANOIC ACID (PFOA) MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL) EXCEEDANCE

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

**Damascus Area School Has Levels of Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS)
Above Drinking Water Standards**

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely test our drinking water for numerous contaminants. Results we received on 1/21/2026 show PFOS levels above the maximum contaminant level (MCL). Compliance with the drinking water MCL is based on the running annual average of the four most recent quarters of test results. The current PFOS average is 20 ng/L, which is above the MCL. The MCL for PFOS is 18 ng/L and the MCL for PFOA is 14 ng/L.

What should I do?

You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

What does this mean?

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, exposure to PFOS and/or PFOA in excess of the MCL over many years may result in adverse health effects. Drinking water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL of 18 ng/L may cause adverse health effects, including decreased immune response. Drinking water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL of 14 ng/L may cause adverse health effects, including developmental effects (neurobehavioral and skeletal effects).

What are PFOS and PFOA?

PFOS and PFOA are chemicals that are part of a larger group referred to as perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). These are human-made chemicals and do not occur naturally in the environment. They have been used to make items that are resistant to water, grease, or stains such as cookware, carpets, and packaging. They are also used in industrial processes and in firefighting foams. Since these substances are resistant to heat, water, and oil they persist in the environment and in the human body. Due to the prevalence of PFAS in consumer products, it is likely that most people have been exposed to these substances through other sources besides drinking water.

What happened? What was done?

At Entry Point 101, PFOS was found at a level of 18 ng/L on 01/05/2026. 19 ng/L on 10/7/2025. The Q2 2025- Q1 2026 Running Annual Average (RAA) at Entry Point (EP)101 for PFOS is 20 ng/L. Also at EP101, PFOA was found at a level of 5.2 ng/L in your drinking water sampled on 01/05/2026. The Q2 2025-Q1 2026 RAA at EP101 for PFOA is 6.5 ng/L, which is below the MCL for PFOA of 14 ng/L.

PFOS at EP101 results were found at levels of 20 ng/L on 5/22/25, 23 ng/L on 7/24/25, 19 ng/L on 10/7/25, and 18 ng/L on 01/05/26. The Q2 2025-Q1 2026 RAA for PFOS at EP101 is 20 ng/L. PFOA at EP101 results were found at levels of 7.1 ng/L on 5/22/25, 7.6 ng/L on 7/24/25, 6.1 ng/L on 10/7/25, and 5.2 ng/L on 01/05/26. The Q2 2025-Q1 2026 RAA for PFOA at EP101 is 6.5 ng/L, which is below the MCL for PFOA of 14ng/L.

First quarter samples were taken on January 5, 2026. We have installed PFAS-specific point-of-use filters on all water fountains and sinks where food is washed/prepared. We will continue to sample on a quarterly basis and give updates every 90 days.

The District has begun the process to evaluate the system and are researching options to address the issue, such as installing a treatment system. We are working with Century Engineering, Kleinfelder and the DEP to consult on a plan as well as researching grant options. We will continue to notify you every 90 days until install is complete and PFAS is removed from the water system.

We anticipate resolving the problem within Summer of 2027 (or the problem was resolved on _____).

For more information, please call Timothy Morgan of Wayne Highlands School District, Superintendent at 570-253-4661.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Timothy Morgan, Superintendent, Wayne Highlands School District.

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