

Fort Ord Cleanup Fact Sheet: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

PFAS Background:

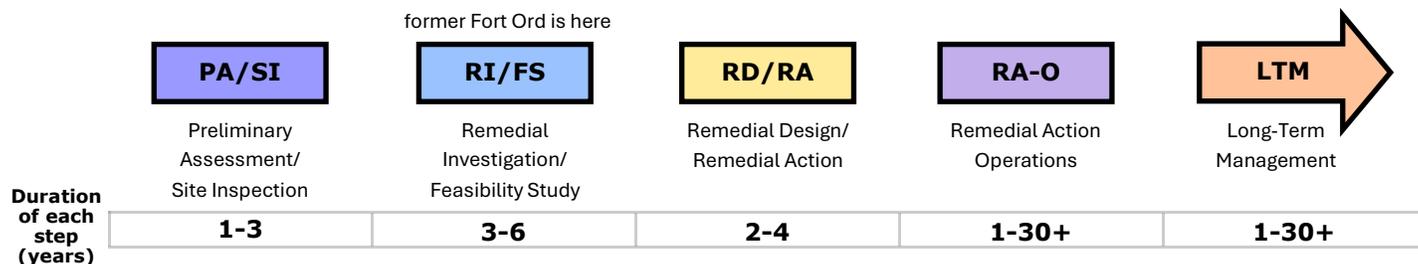
- ◆ **What are PFAS?** PFAS refers to a class of man-made chemicals in commerce, including perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), and perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS). PFOS and PFOA are the most extensively studied and historically the most widely-used PFAS throughout the U.S.
- ◆ **Uses of PFAS:** Beginning in the 1950s, common uses of these substances included numerous heat-, stain-, grease-, and water-resistant products, such as carpets, clothing, upholstery fabrics, paper packaging for food, and cookware.
- ◆ **U.S. Department of the Army (Army) use of PFAS:** Military use of PFAS-containing aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) began in the 1970s and was most widely used at installations with airfields. The primary potential sources of Army PFAS releases are firefighting training areas where AFFF was used to train firefighters to respond to petroleum fires. These chemicals may also enter the environment through landfills and wastewater due to their presence in consumer products or as runoff to soil and water from other uses.
- ◆ **PFAS regulations:** On April 10, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) announced the final National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for six PFAS, which established legally enforceable levels called Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs).



Firefighters using AFFF

PFAS Investigation Process at the former Fort Ord:

PFAS may be present in soil and/or groundwater at Army installations from AFFF or from other sources. The Army follows Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) requirements for the investigation and cleanup of PFAS releases resulting from Army activities. This includes investigating releases, prioritizing responses, and determining appropriate cleanup actions based on risk to human health and the environment. Steps in the CERCLA process include:



Army PFAS Investigation Activities at the former Fort Ord:

◆ 2021-22: Preliminary Assessment (PA)

What was done: evaluation of 103 sites at the former Fort Ord through historical records research, site visits, and site personnel interviews

Results: the Army recommended further investigation for seven sites at the former Fort Ord

Document: PA Narrative Report ([Document No. BW-2904B](#)), which was reviewed by USEPA, California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQCB)

◆ 2022-23: Site Inspection (SI)

What was done: soil and groundwater sampling at the seven sites identified in the PA Narrative Report

Results: the Army recommended further investigation for five of the seven sites at the former Fort Ord

Document: SI Narrative Report ([Document No. BW-2942A](#)), which was reviewed by USEPA, DTSC, and CCRWQCB

◆ 2024-27: Remedial Investigation (RI, next step)

What is planned: sampling to characterize the nature and extent of PFAS releases, looking at potential exposure pathways for humans and the environment, including soil, surface water, and groundwater (at any point during this process, the Army could identify additional sites that require investigation)

Results: expected summer 2027

Document: RI Work Plan and RI Report

Your drinking water is safe:

The Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) supplies drinking water to the City of Marina and former Fort Ord, including portions of City of Seaside and the County of Monterey. MCWD regularly tests drinking water quality and results are reported in an annual Consumer Confidence Report found at https://www.mcwd.org/gsa_ccr.html. No MCLs have been exceeded. Check with your local water provider for more information.

For more information:

USEPA PFAS Information and Resources (<https://www.epa.gov/pfas>)

California State Water Resources Control Board Public Water System PFAS Information and Resources (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/pfas/drinking_water.html)

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