



Information on PFAS testing in the Burland Ranchettes community in August 2023

In December 2022, a private well owner in your area sampled their groundwater for chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and found elevated levels. PFAS can be found in certain types of firefighting foam and in products that repel oil and water, resist heat, and reduce friction. Studies have found that some PFAS chemicals may be linked to health problems with increased cholesterol, pregnancy, child development, and changes to the liver and the immune system. The findings prompted additional testing to try to understand if PFAS contamination is present more widely in this area.

We don't know whether PFAS will cause a specific health impact for an individual. That's because many factors, such as health history and lifestyle, can affect health impacts. To learn more about PFAS and your health, visit [our website](#).

Water sampling results: In August 2023, CDPHE sampled fourteen additional private wells, one pond, and one stream in the Burland Ranchettes community to gather information. The pond and stream did not show PFAS levels above what the lab was able to detect.

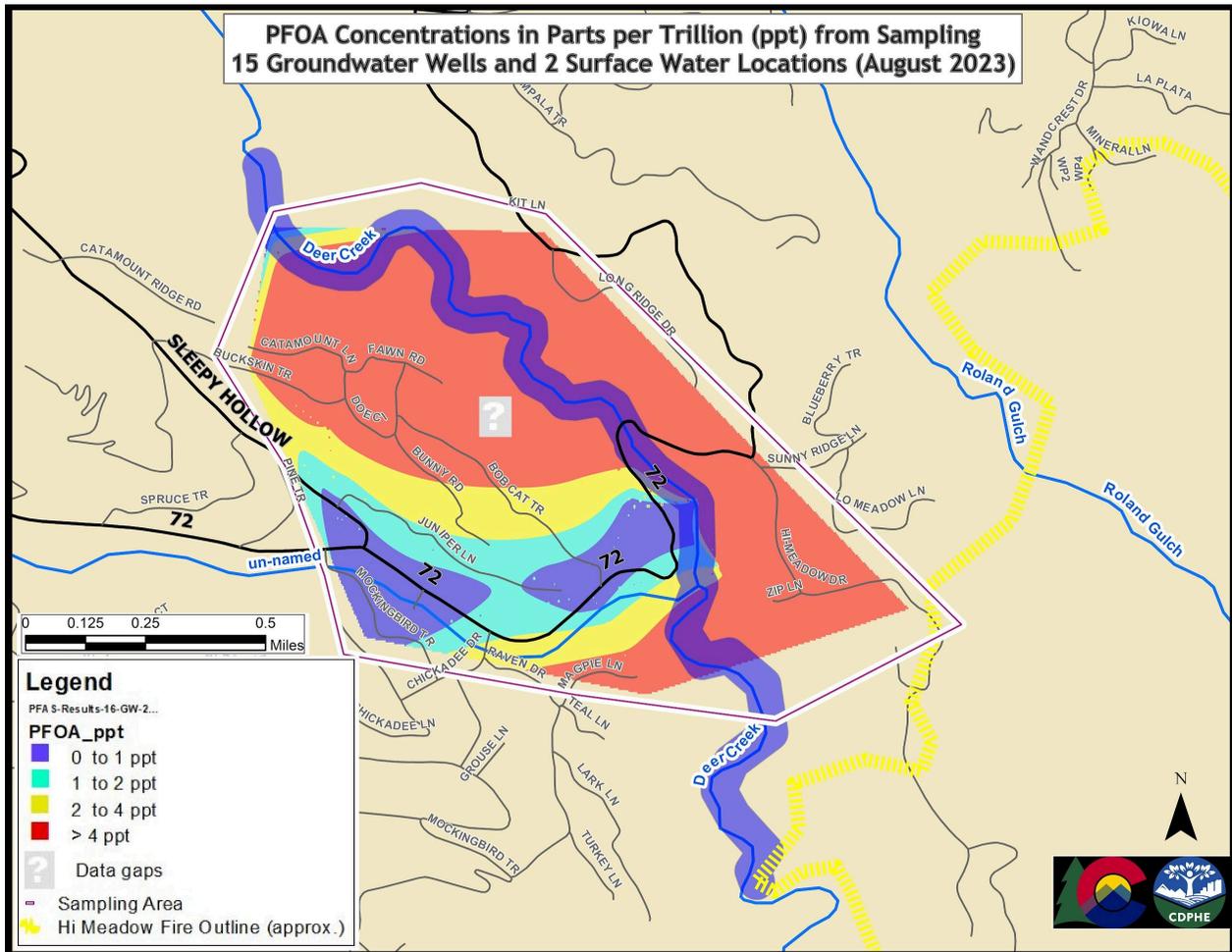
The table below shows a summary of results for two types of PFAS compared to EPA's interim health advisory and EPA's proposed drinking water standard.

- 1) **Interim updated health advisory:** Health advisories are not enforceable regulations. They are set to protect all people from health effects over a lifetime of exposure to PFAS in drinking water.
- 2) **Proposed drinking water standard:** If this standard is adopted, EPA will require public water systems to test for PFAS and treat their water if necessary down to the drinking water standard level. The proposed drinking water standards are higher than the health advisories because they consider non-health factors such as cost and the ability to measure and treat a contaminant. The proposed drinking water standard is legally enforceable only for public drinking water systems, and not private wells.

| Individual PFAS | Interim Updated Health advisory (interim) | Proposed drinking water standard | Number of wells over proposed standard | **Median level of 15 wells tested | Minimum and Maximum |
|-----------------|---|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| PFOA | 0.004 parts per trillion | 4.0 parts per trillion | 8 out of 15 | 6.8 parts per trillion | Minimum: Below Detection* Maximum: 93 parts per trillion |
| PFOS | 0.02 parts per trillion | 4.0 parts per trillion | 5 out of 15 | 1.7 parts per trillion | Minimum: Below Detection* Maximum: 123 parts per trillion |

*Using the best currently available technology, the lowest level this laboratory can detect PFOA and PFOS is around 0.5 parts per trillion. This level is still above the interim updated health advisory.

** Median value is the value in the middle of a data set, meaning that 50% of data points have a value smaller or equal to the median and 50% of data points have a value higher or equal to the median.



Recommendations

PFAS testing: We won't know if PFAS are in your water unless it's tested, but this is not an immediate health risk. We are more concerned about potential health impacts from long-term exposure to PFAS.

CDPHE has resources to support more testing in this area. Additional testing may help us understand baseline concentrations from PFAS sources that are not well-studied, like septic systems. If you live in Bailey and are interested in getting your well tested, you can fill out the form linked below.

Private well testing sign up: <https://bit.ly/CO-TAP>

If you need assistance filling out this form please call 303-692-2606.

If you would like to test independently, EPA has a list of labs that can test for these chemicals. We recommend testing for as many PFAS contaminants as the lab offers. Please note the number of labs that can test for these chemicals changes, so this list may not be the most current.

- [Searchable list of accredited laboratories](#) (search by method 537.1 or 533)
- For a [list of EPA certified labs](#)

Tell the lab you want to test your drinking water for PFAS. A test usually costs between \$300 and \$500.

PFAS filtration: If you are concerned or testing is not an option, you can use water filters for drinking and cooking. For more information on reducing your exposure from drinking water, please visit [our website](#).

Additional private well information: Private and individual household wells are not regulated by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. People who use private wells should routinely test for common water contaminants that can harm health, such as heavy metals and bacteria. For more information on what to routinely test for, visit [our website](#).

Certain types of filters used to address other common well-water contaminants, like reverse osmosis systems, are also effective at removing PFAS. **For all filtration systems, it is important to follow recommended maintenance schedules to ensure they are working properly.**

A possible source of PFAS contamination can be from homes with septic tanks. Septic systems are like a mini water recycling plant in the backyard. They clean out the wastewater in your home and return treated water to the groundwater. If your system is not working properly, untreated water is returned to the groundwater. And some of that untreated water may carry PFAS-containing materials.

That's why it is important to be aware that not all products we use are suitable for homes with a septic system. Making simple changes at home can have a significant impact on your home, neighborhood, and environment. Below are some tips to follow if your home is on a septic system:

- Don't dump waste water from carpet or upholstery cleaners and floor waxing into your septic system or onto the ground.
- Replace non-stick cookware with safer alternatives, such as cast iron or stainless steel.
- Avoid purchasing products advertised as water-, grease-, and stain-resistant.
- Spread your laundry cleaning throughout the week to avoid overloading the system.
 - Avoid washing waterproof clothing, such as GORE-TEX.
- Make sure your septic system is rated for the number of people in your home.
- All pumps and motors should be routinely checked for proper operation.

The [University of Minnesota's website](#) also has helpful information on septic system maintenance.

Additional PFAS information can be found on [our website](#). If you have questions about this information, you can contact ToxCall at 303-692-2606 or email at cdphe_toxcall@state.co.us.