

What to know about PFAS in the Oscoda Area

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are human-made chemicals that stay in the environment for a very long time. They have been found in some drinking water wells in the Oscoda area. PFAS have also been found in foam on local lakes and rivers, and in fish and wild game. PFAS are linked to some harmful health effects. This document explains common sources of PFAS and how to avoid them.

Residential drinking water wells



- Drinking water with PFAS in it is one way these chemicals can enter your body.
- The municipal water in Oscoda Township is not contaminated with PFAS. Municipal water is provided by the Huron Shore Regional Utility Authority.
- PFAS levels in most residential drinking water wells tested in the Oscoda area are below levels of concern for human health. In some households, however, well water has amounts of PFAS above levels that are considered safe. In those households, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and District Health Department No. 2 (DHD No. 2) recommend residents use bottled or filtered water for drinking, cooking, rinsing fruits and vegetables, and making baby formula or food.
- PFAS do not move easily through your skin. You can bathe, do your dishes, wash your clothes, and clean with water that has PFAS in it.

Outdoor activities in lakes and rivers



- Lakes and rivers may contain PFAS. Skin contact with this water during activities such as swimming or fishing is not considered a health concern.
- An accidental swallow of water from rivers or lakes that have PFAS in them is not considered a health concern.
- Foam on local rivers and lakes may have much higher amounts of PFAS than the water and could be a health risk if swallowed. MDHHS recommends everyone avoid foam on lakes and rivers with PFAS contamination.
- Rinse off foam after contact. Bathe or shower after the day's outdoor activities if you have recreated in water with foam.

Fish and wildlife



- Clark's Marsh is highly contaminated with PFAS. MDHHS issued a Do Not Eat advisory for all fish and wildlife taken for consumption from the Marsh. This includes fish, aquatic and semi-aquatic mammals (e.g., muskrats), amphibians (e.g., frogs), mollusks (e.g., snails), reptiles (e.g., turtles), and arthropods (e.g., crayfish).
- Do not eat deer taken from Clark's Marsh or within the surrounding advisory area. For a map of the advisory area, visit bit.ly/Clarks-Marsh-Advisory.
- Do not eat non-migratory fish on the Au Sable River downstream of the Foote Dam to Lake Huron. These are fish that remain in the area year-round, such as bluegill, sunfish, largemouth bass, rock bass, and smallmouth bass.
- Migratory fish in this area of the Au Sable River have fish consumption guidelines due to different chemicals. Follow the Eat Safe Fish guidelines at Michigan.gov/EatSafeFish for choosing fish lower in chemicals from the Au Sable River and other area lakes and rivers.

Ongoing work



- MDHHS continues to resample private drinking water wells in the area to check for any changes in PFAS levels.
- MDHHS provides private well owners their drinking water results and any update to existing recommendations.
- Working with local, state, and federal partners, MDHHS continues to review Oscoda-area PFAS data and develops health education and outreach activities based on the best available science.
- To better understand the scope of human exposure to PFAS, MDHHS is developing an Oscoda-area exposure assessment. MDHHS plans to test the blood of people who live and recreate in the area and measure the levels of PFAS in their blood. Findings will inform public health recommendations.

**Want
More
Information?**

- Visit Michigan.gov/PFASResponse to learn about the health effects associated with PFAS and the state's response to PFAS environmental contamination.
- Call the MDHHS Toxics and Health hotline at 1-800-648-6942 (800-MI-TOXIC).
- Call District Health Department No. 2 at 989-362-6183.
- Call the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Environmental Assistance Center at 800-622-9278.

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