



PFOMS

PFAS in Firefighters of Michigan Surveillance

What is PFOMS?

PFOMS is a statewide biomonitoring project focused on Michigan firefighters. The primary purpose of the project is to determine Michigan firefighters' blood concentrations of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), chemicals commonly found in Class B foams. The findings of the project will help inform decisions to minimize firefighters' exposure to PFAS.

What population will be invited to participate in this project?

All career and volunteer firefighters from airport fire stations and randomly selected municipal fire departments across Michigan will be invited to participate.

How were fire departments selected to participate?

- All fire departments that support a FAA Part 139 certified airport across the state and their adult firefighters are invited to participate.
- For the Detroit Fire Department, some fire stations were selected at random. All adult firefighters assigned to these selected fire stations are invited to participate.
- Municipal fire departments across the state were selected at random. All adult firefighters working at these fire departments are invited to participate.

What types of information will be gathered?

From participants:

-  Small sample of blood
-  Questions about job duties and behaviors that relate to PFAS exposure.

From selected departments and stations:

-  Drinking water samples
-  Questions about water supply, incident response records and firefighting foam usage and storage.

What is the project timeline?





How will information collected for this project be protected?



It will be stored on a secure server.



It will be password-protected.



Personnel will have limited access to it.



Staff is trained on data security and identity protection.

What can the blood test results tell me?

- The amount of PFAS in your blood at the time it was drawn from your body.
- We will not be testing your blood for any drugs, chemicals, and will not be doing any genetic testing.

What can't the blood test results tell me?

- Where any PFAS in your blood came from.
- Information about chemicals we did not test for.
- If PFAS have harmed your health.
- If PFAS will harm your health in the future.

What are some examples of where PFAS can be found?

- Firefighting foam
- Stain and water-resistant products
- Food packaging
- Metal plating applications, such as chrome plating
- Water seepage from landfills
- Carpet and other textiles



How can firefighters be exposed to PFAS?

- By using firefighting foam that contains PFAS.
- Through water-repellent fabrics used in gear.
- Through firefighting foam residue on gear and equipment.
- Through PFAS-contaminated drinking water.

How can firefighters reduce exposure to PFAS?

Firefighters can reduce their exposure by following guidance from their fire department for use of personal protective equipment. Additionally, they should follow best practices that the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) recommend for use of firefighting foam. You can learn more by viewing the [MPART Michigan Firefighting Foam and PFAS Fact Sheet](#).

For more information, visit [Michigan.gov/DEHBio](https://www.michigan.gov/DEHBio)

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