

Cromwell Fire District

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COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE
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FIRE DEPARTMENT

WATER DIVISION

CONSUMER DRINKING WATER NOTICE

The **Cromwell Fire District, Water Division** public water system has found per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the drinking water supplied to you.

On **April 13, 2023**, the **Cromwell Fire District, Water Division (The District)** collected drinking water samples and analyzed for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) has recommended but not required public water systems test for PFAS. *The District collected the samples to meet the requirements Safe Drinking Water Act's (SDWA) unregulated contaminant monitoring rule (UCMR) as required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA published the fifth UCMR (UCMR 5) on December 27, 2021. UCMR 5 requires sample collection for 30 chemical contaminants between 2023 and 2025 using analytical methods developed by EPA and consensus organizations. This action provides EPA and other interested parties with scientifically valid data on the national occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water.*

The UCMR 5 sampling detected two contaminants of the thirty tested; however, neither detection exceeded any Connecticut DPH drinking water action levels. The District detected **4.6** parts-per-trillion or ppt of **PFOS** and **8.7** ppt of **FSHxS**.¹

¹ Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), and perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)

The table below presents the results along with the DPH’s Action Levels and the EPA’s Health Advisories. Action Levels and Health Advisories are non-regulatory and not enforceable; rather they are guidelines that may be used to prompt protective measures.

	PFAS									
	(parts-per-trillion <u>or</u> ppt; nanograms-per-Liter <u>or</u> ng/L)									
	PFOS	PFNA	PFOA	PFHxS	PFBS	GenX Chemicals	PFHxA	PFBA	F-53B Minor	F-53B Major
<u>CT DPH</u> Action Level	10	12	16	49	760	19	240	1,800	5	2
<u>Sample Results</u>										
Sample Location: <i>Entry point to the distribution system</i>	4.6	ND	ND	8.7	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND

*ND = non detect; NT = not tested

What are we doing?

CT DPH’s Action levels and EPA’s Health Advisory levels are guidelines and although they are not enforceable, we are taking the following steps to protect public health:

- The District will conduct follow up sampling for PFAS compounds on Thursday September 7th, 2023.
 - Follow up sampling includes PFAS sampling of all four individual water supply wells at the District’s Gardiner Wellfield and additional sampling at the entry point to the distribution system.
 - The District only conducted the UCMR 5 sampling at the entry point to the distribution system.
- The District will continue to share the results with you.
- The District is working with its drinking water consultants to explore available options to address PFAS in the drinking water supply and will keep all residents and customers informed of our progress. The District is moving forward with their consultants to develop a PFAS and Water Treatment Feasibility Study (Study) to evaluate the District’s water treatment alternatives and options. The Study will move forward upon receipt and analysis of the PFAS sampling results.

- The District is not obligated to perform this additional sampling or future PFAS planning; however, we are placing a priority on being proactive while continuing to protect the health and safety of our consumers and the residents of Cromwell.

What are PFAS?

PFAS are a group of over 5,000 manmade chemicals with useful properties such as repelling water and oil, preventing staining and sticking, and increasing heat resistance. PFAS are used on and in many consumer and industrial products such as waterproof fabrics, carpets, non-stick cookware, food packaging and firefighting foams. However, PFAS do not biodegrade and are known to be persistent in the environment. This enables PFAS to migrate through soil and impact water used for drinking.

What are the health effects of exposure to PFAS?

Consuming water with PFAS concentrations greater than the Connecticut DPH Action Levels (see table above) over a long period of time may increase your risk of developing a variety of health effects.

The main health concerns from ingestion of PFAS come from animal laboratory studies that consistently show liver, immune system, developmental, and pregnancy-related effects. Animal studies have also shown that PFAS can disturb blood lipids, such as cholesterol, and affect the endocrine (e.g., thyroid) and hormonal systems. Some studies of human populations have shown an increased risk for kidney cancer, and at very high exposure levels, for testicular cancer.

Due to the concerns about developmental and pregnancy-related effects, it is especially important that pregnant women and children avoid drinking water with PFAS, and that this water not be used to prepare baby formula. Wherever feasible take steps to reduce exposure to PFAS from all potential sources (e.g., drinking water, food packaging, consumer products). However, PFAS are not readily absorbed through the skin, so water with PFAS can be used for bathing, showering, and washing dishes and clothes.

For More Information

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For information on PFOS, PFNA, PFOA, PFHxS, PFBS, GenX chemicals and other PFAS, including possible health outcomes, you may visit these websites:

- Connecticut Department of Public Health Frequently Asked Questions about PFAS: [PFAS FAQs \(ct.gov\)](#)
- The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's website: [What are the health effects of PFAS?](#)
- Basic information and links to informational resources: [PFAS Explained | US EPA](#)

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 co