

MEMORANDUM

TO: FLORIDA STATE FIRE COLLEGE EMPLOYEES AND TRAINEES

FROM: JULIUS HALAS, DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

DATE: SEPTEMBER 13, 2018

RE: FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WATER QUALITY TESTING

The Fire College wants to take this opportunity to notify you of the results of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP's) ongoing groundwater assessment at the Fire College. The DEP has been actively engaged in studies to determine whether certain chemicals are being detected in soils, groundwater, and drinking water. As part of this effort, the DEP tested the raw (untreated and unfiltered) water from one of the two water supply wells at the Fire College. The results of the initial, preliminary samples came back with elevated levels of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). The DEP made these test results available to the State Fire Marshal this past Friday, September 7, 2018.

The table below summarizes the preliminary raw sample results for PFOS and PFOA detected in initial samples collected on Aug. 15, 2018, and compares the results to the combined PFOS/PFOA Health Advisory Level of 70 nanograms per liter (70 ng/L). It is important to note that the current PFOS/PFOA Health Advisory Level is based on long-term, lifetime exposure.

Analyte	Concentration	Combined Total	EPA Health Advisory Level
PFOS	240 ng/L	250 ng/L	70 ng/L
PFOA	10 ng/L		

Within the last couple of days, the DEP has collected additional samples of the raw water from the well that was previously tested, at the tap within the Fire College, and from the other well located on the Fire College property to determine whether the presence of PFOA and PFOS can be confirmed. The Fire College will notify you of those results as soon as the results are available. If necessary, the Fire College will coordinate with the DEP and the Florida Department of Health (DOH) to identify any measures that may be needed to lower the chemical level in the Fire College water supply.

Your health and safety is our top priority. We want to assure you that there is no need for immediate concern, as the results from the DEP are initial and preliminary. According to the DOH, there is a very low risk of any effects from short-term exposure to PFOS and PFOA. For

the time being the DOH has recommended that the water from the Fire College well not be used for drinking, cooking, or brushing teeth. In an abundance of caution, bottled water is being supplied for use in the cafeteria and to all employees and trainees for drinking water and toiletry purposes while additional confirmatory sampling is conducted and any measures needed to address the chemical level are identified and implemented. The DOH has determined and advised the Fire College that it is safe for Fire College personnel and trainees to use the existing water supply for showering, bathing, and fire training.

If you have any questions regarding these sample results, or future testing, please contact Dave Phillips with the DEP's Site Investigation Section, at 850-245-8952. For any health-related questions, please contact the DOH toll free number, at 877-798-2772. For operational questions related to the Fire College, please contact Mark Harper, Assistant Superintendent, Florida State Fire College, at 352-369-2829.