

As one of the providers of drinking water for residents and visitors to Broward County, Broward County Water and Wastewater Services shares the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) desire to minimize levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, known as PFAS, out of the public's drinking water. Of particular interest for monitoring are two specific types of PFAS components: perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). The current science holds that these two PFAS constituents are generally the more harmful of the PFAS substances.

PFAS are chemicals that resist grease, oil, water and heat. They were first developed in the 1940s. The chemicals are used in hundreds of products today and do not degrade easily.

PFAS are not currently regulated by the EPA as part of the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations and as demonstrated in *the County's 2022 [Water Quality Report](#), our water met or exceeded all federal Safe Drinking Water Act standards.*

To proactively address the PFAS issue, the County recently tested the treated water for PFAS at the two Water Treatment Plants that the County controls (the Lauderdale Lakes plant, servicing Lauderdale Lakes, unincorporated Broadview Park, and portions of Fort Lauderdale, Lauderdale, North Lauderdale, Oakland Park communities; and the Pompano Beach plant, servicing portions of the Coconut Creek, Deerfield Beach Lighthouse Point, and Pompano Beach communities). Our recent tests have yielded the following PFOS and PFOA results:

Treatment Plant Lauderdale Lakes

- Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) 18 parts per Trillion
- Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) 6.1 parts per Trillion

Treatment Plant Pompano Beach

- Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) 26 parts per Trillion
- Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) 8.3 parts per Trillion

While these components are not currently regulated by the EPA, Broward County will conduct additional testing consistent with the schedule provided by the EPA as part of the EPA's monitoring rule for water systems.

To be further proactive, Broward County has hired experts to evaluate science-driven methodologies to eliminate or reduce the presence of PFAS in advance of the EPA's guidelines or regulations expected later this year, which will be the EPA's first drinking water standards for PFAS. We expect this study to be completed around or shortly after the anticipated finalization and adoption of the proposed EPA guidance or regulations. We anticipate significant nationwide investments will be required by federal, state, and local water utilities to address this issue.

Broward County is committed to being a leader in providing safe and affordable drinking water. We look forward to working collaboratively with state and federal regulators to communicate public health protection measures and to protect Broward County residents and visitors.

For additional information, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>.