



2020 Conference Abstract Submission Form Virtual Conference

October 13-15, 2020

SESSION TITLE:

Identifying Environmental Health Blind Spots: A Local Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Study in Private Wells

DESCRIPTION:

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals that do not break down in the environment. If consumed, PFAS accumulate in the body over time and can cause various adverse health outcomes. These chemicals are suspected carcinogens, can harm childhood development, compromise the immune system, and interfere with hormones and cholesterol levels. While currently unregulated in drinking water, the Environmental Protection Agency has set a lifetime health advisory of 70 parts-per-trillion.

In recent years, PFAS have been detected in groundwater around the country near facilities that have conducted fire-fighting training using aqueous film forming foam (AFFF). Although AFFF use is being phased out by many users, the chemicals are still present in the environment due to their persistent nature.

In light of the emerging concern of these chemicals' migration into drinking water supplies, Linn County Public Health (LCPH) and the University of Iowa's Center for Health Effects of Environmental Contamination (CHEEC) initiated a study. Through this study, private wells were identified near a known site where AFFF has been used in the past. Multiple of these wells were tested and found to contain PFAS chemicals, some even over the EPA lifetime health advisory level.

SPEAKER INFORMATION

Speaker 1 / Point of Contact:

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PRESENTATION OBJECTIVES

Provide at least two objectives.

1. Increase public awareness of the threat that PFAS chemicals pose on private water supplies.
2. Inform other environmental health agencies of current testing efforts and results in Iowa.