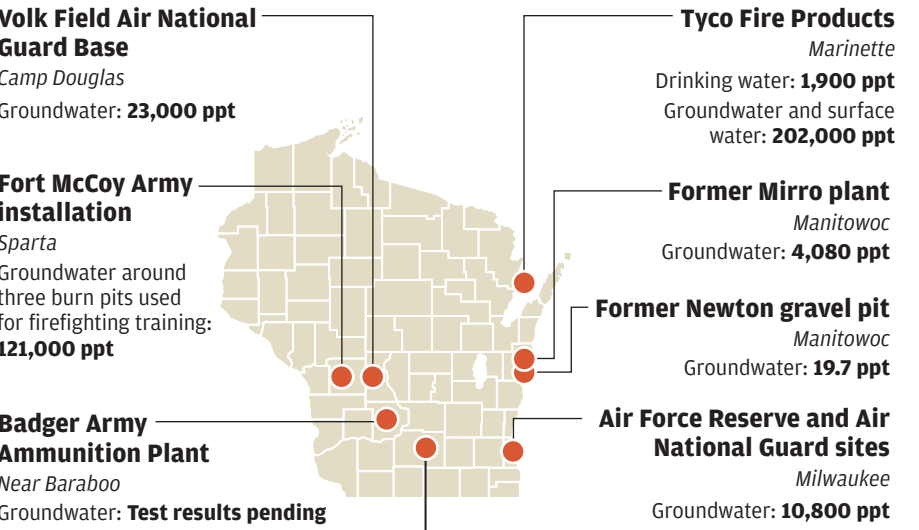


Known contamination sites

Evidence has been mounting since the 1990s about serious health hazards from synthetic “nonstick” chemicals used in many consumer products and firefighting foam. Referred to by the acronym PFAS, they spread easily through water above and below ground. They are linked to illnesses including testicular cancer, high cholesterol and disease of the liver, kidneys, glands and immune system.

Maximum levels* of PFAS compounds found during testing:



*In parts per trillion

Drinking water: Advised maximum PFAS level varies

There are thousands of PFAS compounds. Government agencies have issued health advisories with maximum safe-drinking levels for a few of the most common ones. Many states, including Wisconsin, follow a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency advisory.

- EPA:** 70 parts per trillion
- Vermont:** 20 parts per trillion
- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry:** 14-21 parts per trillion
- New Jersey:** 13-14 parts per trillion

Wisconsin hasn't placed specific legal limits on PFAS contamination, but the state can order polluters to investigate and clean up contamination.

Truax Air National Guard Base

Madison
 Drinking water for Well 15: **37 ppt** (for five PFAS compounds combined) and **10 ppt** (for two combined)
 Groundwater: **39,841 ppt**

Pollutant used at air base showing up in drinking water

Heavy concentrations of hazardous PFAS compounds have been found in shallow groundwater under Truax Air National Guard base. The chemicals were used in firefighting foam.

Local officials say concentrations reaching Well 15 are low enough not to require treatment, but they want the military to do more about measuring and slowing the underground flow to the well, and into Starkweather Creek and Lake Monona where they may add to health risks of eating fish.

