

Paine Field Fire Training Pit PFAS Cleanup Site



Paine Field Fire Training Pit PFAS site location

Comments accepted

August 11, 12:00 a.m. –
September 10, 11:59 p.m., 2025

Submit comments

Online:

[www.go.ecology.wa.gov/
PaineFieldFirePitComments](http://www.go.ecology.wa.gov/PaineFieldFirePitComments)

By mail or email:

David Unruh, Site Manager
WA Department of Ecology
PO Box 330316
Shoreline, WA 98133-9716
David.Unruh@ecy.wa.gov
206-459-6287

Document review

[www.go.ecology.wa.gov/
PaineFieldFirePit](http://www.go.ecology.wa.gov/PaineFieldFirePit)

Mukilteo Library
4675 Harbour Pointe Blvd.
Mukilteo, WA 98275
425-493-8202

For document review assistance,
please contact:

Kristen Forkeutis,
Outreach Specialist
Kristen.Forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov
425-240-4353

Site info

Facility Site ID: 49626114
Site Cleanup ID: 16912

Documents ready for public review and comment

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites you to comment on an agreed order (legal agreement) and public participation plan for the Paine Field Fire Training Pit PFAS cleanup site. The site is located on the western boundary of Paine Field near South Everett. Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) were released to the soil and groundwater from firefighting foam, formerly used at the site during required training activities. There have been no reported impacts to area drinking water sources from the site.

The following documents are available for review:

- **Agreed Order:** Legal agreement between Ecology and Snohomish County (County) requiring the County to investigate environmental conditions, and complete a remedial investigation, feasibility study, and cleanup action plan for the site.
- **Public Participation Plan:** Describes how Ecology will inform the community about the site activities and ways to become involved.

The public may request a meeting about the proposed agreed order and public participation plan. Ecology will hold a meeting if it determines whether one is necessary. To make a request, contact Kristen Forkeutis before September 10 at 425-240-4353 or Kristen.Forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov.

Language services information – see page 5

Español | 한국어 | Tiếng Việt | 中文

Toxics Cleanup Program

Site background

The Paine Field Fire Training Pit PFAS site is located north of 10727 Bernie Webber Drive in Mukilteo, WA, 98275 and taxiway K-6. This 30-acre site is situated on the western boundary of Paine Field in unincorporated Snohomish County between South Everett and Mukilteo. It is zoned for light industrial use. The site is owned by the County and includes the southwestern part of the airport and several aircraft hangars.

Historical uses of the site included firefighting training exercises conducted by Paine Field and local fire departments, as well as equipment calibration and compliance testing required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Training exercises involved filling a pit in the ground with flammable materials like petroleum and igniting the materials. These fires were extinguished using fire suppressants, including aqueous film forming foam (AFFF), which contains PFAS. Fire truck calibration and FAA compliance testing were conducted by spraying AFFF mixtures directly onto the ground near the fire training pit. These practices were modified in 2019 so that AFFF was no longer discharged onto the ground.

Two other cleanup sites are located in this area: [Paine Field](https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/9457)¹ (CSID 9457) and [Snohomish County Airport Fire Pit](https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/3234)² (CSID 3234). These sites are associated with releases of petroleum hydrocarbons from underground storage tanks and firefighting training. Ecology determined that petroleum hydrocarbons from the Snohomish County Airport Fire Pit site were cleaned up through the [Voluntary Cleanup Program](https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Voluntary-Cleanup-Program)³ in 2007.

PFAS contamination was also found at two sites near Paine Field: [Big Gulch Creek Subbasin 9](https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/16778)⁴ (CSID 16778) and [Swamp Creek PFAS](https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/17199)⁵ (CSID 17199). These sites are currently being managed outside of the proposed agreed order.

Initial investigation & site contamination



2024 monitoring well installation at the site



2024 soil sampling at the site

Voluntary investigations at the site began in 2018 to understand the extent of PFAS contamination caused by using AFFF during training, calibration, and testing activities. Soil, groundwater, and surface water samples were collected from the area of the fire training pit. The most recent data collected in 2024 shows that contaminated groundwater extends from the intersection of runway 34L-16R and

¹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/9457>

² <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/3234>

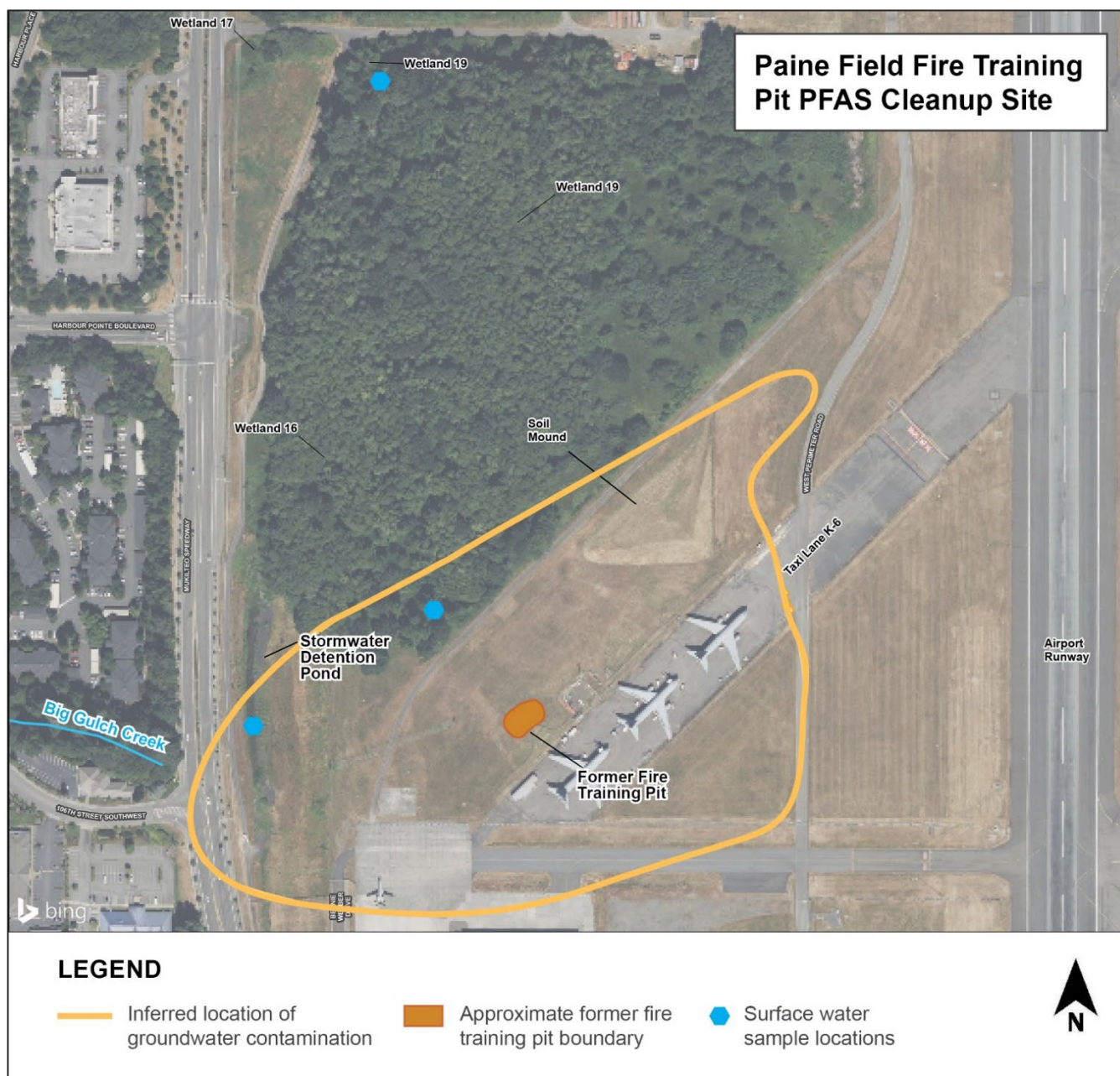
³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Voluntary-Cleanup-Program>

⁴ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/16778>

⁵ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/17199>

taxiway K-6 west to Mukilteo Speedway. Surface water samples collected from the wetlands to the north and the stormwater pond to the west also contained PFAS. A groundwater user survey completed in 2023 did not identify water supply wells or active groundwater rights within a 1-mile radius of the site. The following contaminants have been found at concentrations greater than WA State screening levels.

- **Soil:** Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS), and perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)
- **Groundwater:** PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, and PFHxS
- **Surface Water:** PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, and PFHxS



Paine Field Fire Training Pit PFAS site map

PFAS contamination

What are PFAS?

PFAS stands for per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances. PFAS is a family of manufactured chemicals which have been used since the 1940s. They are in many industrial and consumer products because of their unique and useful chemical properties. They are used in firefighting foam and a wide range of consumer products including carpets, clothing, cookware, paper, and packaging.

Why are we concerned about PFAS?

Due to their unique and useful chemical properties, PFAS do not degrade or break down naturally in the environment and can accumulate over time. For this reason, PFAS are sometimes called “forever chemicals.” Some types of PFAS can build up in our bodies when we’re exposed for months to years. Studies show that higher levels of PFAS chemicals in our bodies could increase our risk for negative health impacts. To learn more about PFAS health concerns visit the [Washington State Department of Health’s PFAS webpage](#).⁶

Are PFAS regulated?

The Washington State Department of Ecology and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are taking action to address PFAS. To learn more visit [Ecology’s PFAS webpage](#)⁷ and [EPA’s PFAS webpage](#).⁸

Where can I learn more about PFAS?

Additional resources about PFAS are listed below.

- [What Are PFAS Factsheet](#)⁹
- [Washington State Department of Health PFAS in Drinking Water](#)¹⁰
- [Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry \(ATSDR\) – How PFAS Impacts Your Health](#)¹¹
- [National Groundwater Association, PFAS and Private Well Owners Fact Sheet](#)¹²

What happens next?

Ecology will consider all the comments received during this public comment period and may make changes to the documents. If the documents require significant changes, we will hold another public comment period. If no significant changes are made, Ecology will finalize the documents.

As part of the agreed order, the County and Ecology will be responsible for working cooperatively to adequately investigate the site and recommend potential options for cleaning up contamination. The County will complete a remedial investigation, feasibility study, and cleanup action plan. Each of these documents will be available for public review and comment.

⁶ <https://doh.wa.gov/pfas>

⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/pfas>

⁸ <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>

⁹ <https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/WhatArePFAS-Factsheet.pdf>

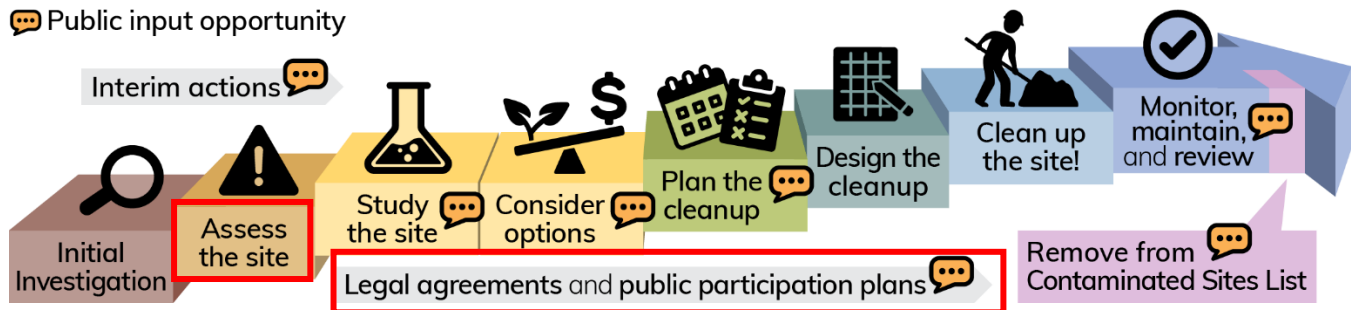
¹⁰ <https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/drinking-water/contaminants/pfas-drinking-water>

¹¹ https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/about/health-effects.html?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects/index.html

¹² https://www.ngwa.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/pfas/pfas-and-private-well-owners-what-you-need-to-know.pdf?sfvrsn=e54b7602_2

Ecology's cleanup process

The [Model Toxics Control Act \(MTCA\)](https://ecology.wa.gov/mtca)¹³ is Washington's environmental cleanup law. It provides requirements for contaminated site cleanup and sets standards that protect human health and the environment. Ecology is responsible for administering MTCA, including the oversight or management of cleanups. The [MTCA cleanup process](https://ecology.wa.gov/mtca-process)¹⁴ is completed in steps (see graphic below) over a variable timeline. The Paine Field Fire Training Pit PFAS cleanup site is currently in the "assess the site" step of the process. A legal agreement and public participation plan are also included during this step. Both are outlined in red below.



Washington's formal cleanup process

Automatic site updates

You can subscribe from the site [webpage](https://ecology.wa.gov/mtca-process).¹⁵ You'll receive a weekly email if we change the site's status, add documents to the site's webpage, or open a comment period.

Language Services

A translated copy of this material may be available in other languages at no cost. To request it, email Kristen.Forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov or call 425-240-4353. If you call, ask for an interpreter to be connected with one.

Español: Este material está disponible en español. Para ver una copia, visite www.go.ecology.wa.gov/PaineFieldFirePit.

한국어 : 이 자료는 한국어로 제공됩니다. 사본을 보려면 www.go.ecology.wa.gov/PaineFieldFirePit 를 방문하세요.

Tiếng Việt: Tài liệu này có sẵn bằng tiếng Việt. Để xem bản sao, vui lòng truy cập www.go.ecology.wa.gov/PaineFieldFirePit.

中文: 本材料有中文版本。如需查看，请访问 www.go.ecology.wa.gov/PaineFieldFirePit。

¹³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/mtca>

¹⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/mtca-process>

¹⁵ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/16912>

Toxics Cleanup Program
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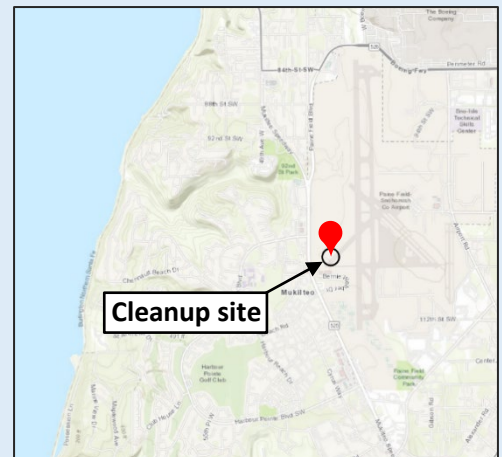


Scan for details

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ADA accessibility

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 425-240-4353 or email at Kristen.Forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov, or visit ecology.wa.gov/Accessibility. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.