

Bulletin #49, Airports, Fire Training & ARFF Training Facilities, January 28, 2022

“Christopher Higgins, a scientist who studies PFAS contamination at the Colorado School of Mines, said Pittsburgh and many of these other airports almost certainly do have contamination. “If they have their own fire training facility,” he said, “it’s almost a guarantee they have their own plume emanating from that facility.”¹

“The way AFFF was handled at Pittsburgh’s airport is similar to how it’s handled at airports across the continent. A 2017 study by the National Science Foundation surveyed 167 airports in the United States and Canada between 2015 and 2016 and found that less than 7% of the airports treated AFFF during training like hazardous waste and less than 7% said they contained and cleaned up the AFFF after it was on the ground. And about four out of five airports said they left it on the ground to “dissipate” or “soaked in” or “diluted” it.”²

But, there really is no diluting of PFAS since these chemicals do not break down easily.

“Unfortunately, the EPA has stated that PFAS are dangerous. They do not dilute, degrade, or disappear, and they pose significant human health risks as they travel through our groundwater and soil. According to the EPA, PFAS have been linked to adverse human health effects including: cancer, liver damage, thyroid disease and imbalance, immune disorders, cardiovascular concerns, and more. Because PFAS is negatively persistent, it can move through drinking water, soil, and even concrete, and has contaminated drinking water in cities across the United States.

The Department of Defense has confirmed that aqueous film forming foam is a major environmentally contaminating source of PFAS. PFAS that comes from AFFF is able to seep into the environment and groundwater and continues to contaminate anything in its path.”³

1 Former firefighters describe how they used foam with PFAS chemicals at Pittsburgh’s airport for decades, Aug 12 2019, <https://www.ehn.org/former-firefighters-describe-how-they-used-foam-with-pfas-chemicals-at-pittsburghs-airport-for-decades-2639773950.html>

2 *ibid.*

3 Vanguard, Industrial Fire Protection, Everything You Need to Know About AFFF, Micah Dickinson, Jan 21, 2020, <https://vanguard-fire.com/everything-you-need-to-know-about-aff/>

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FIRE DEPT SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

US Fire Training Facilities

<u>State</u>	<u>Facility Name</u>	<u>Type</u>
Alaska	Alaska Regional Aircraft Fire Training Center	ARFF Training Facility
Alaska	Hagevig Fire Training Center	ARFF Training Facility
California	San Bernardino Regional Emergency Training Center	ARFF Training Facility
California	Travis Air Force Base	ARFF Training Facility
California	San Bernardino Regional Emergency Training Center	ARFF Training Facility
Colorado	Denver International Airport	ARFF Training Facility
Colorado	State of Colorado/DOT, Division of Aeronautics	ARFF Training Facility
Florida	Florida State College – Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Training (Fire Academy of the South)	ARFF Training Facility
Georgia	Georgia Air National Guard, Comb at Readiness Training Center	ARFF Training Facility
Georgia	Hartsfield – Jackson Atlanta International Airport, ATL Fire Training Center	ARFF Training Facility
Idaho	Boise Fire Department, Training Division	ARFF Training Facility
Illinois	Chicago Fire Department, O'Hare International Airport	ARFF Training Facility
Illinois	Scott AFB	ARFF Training Facility
Illinois	Peoria Air Guard	ARFF Training Facility
Indiana	South Bend Regional Airport	ARFF Training Facility
Kentucky	Blue Grass Airport Regional Fire Training Center	ARFF Training Facility
Kentucky	Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport	ARFF Training Facility
Kentucky	W.A.M.D.I. ARFF / Aviation Training	ARFF Training Facility
Louisiana	L.S.U. Fire and Emergency Training Institute	ARFF Training Facility
Massachusetts	Barnstable County Fire-Rescue Training Academy	Regional Training Facility
Massachusetts	Boston Logan International Airport, Massport Fire Rescue	ARFF Training Facility
Massachusetts	Westover Air Reserve Base	ARFF Training Facility
Michigan	Detroit Metro Wayne County Airport Fire Department	ARFF Training Facility
Michigan	Michigan Air National Guard	ARFF Training Facility
Michigan	Kellogg Community College – ARFF Program (Battle Creek) Mobile Trainer	ARFF Training Facility
Minnesota	Lake Superior College Emergency Response Training	ARFF Training Facility
Minnesota	ARFF Specialists, LLC (Hermantown, MN) Mobile Trainer	ARFF Training Facility
Mississippi	Mississippi State Fire Academy	ARFF Training Facility
Missouri	University of Missouri, Fire Rescue Training Institute	ARFF Training Facility

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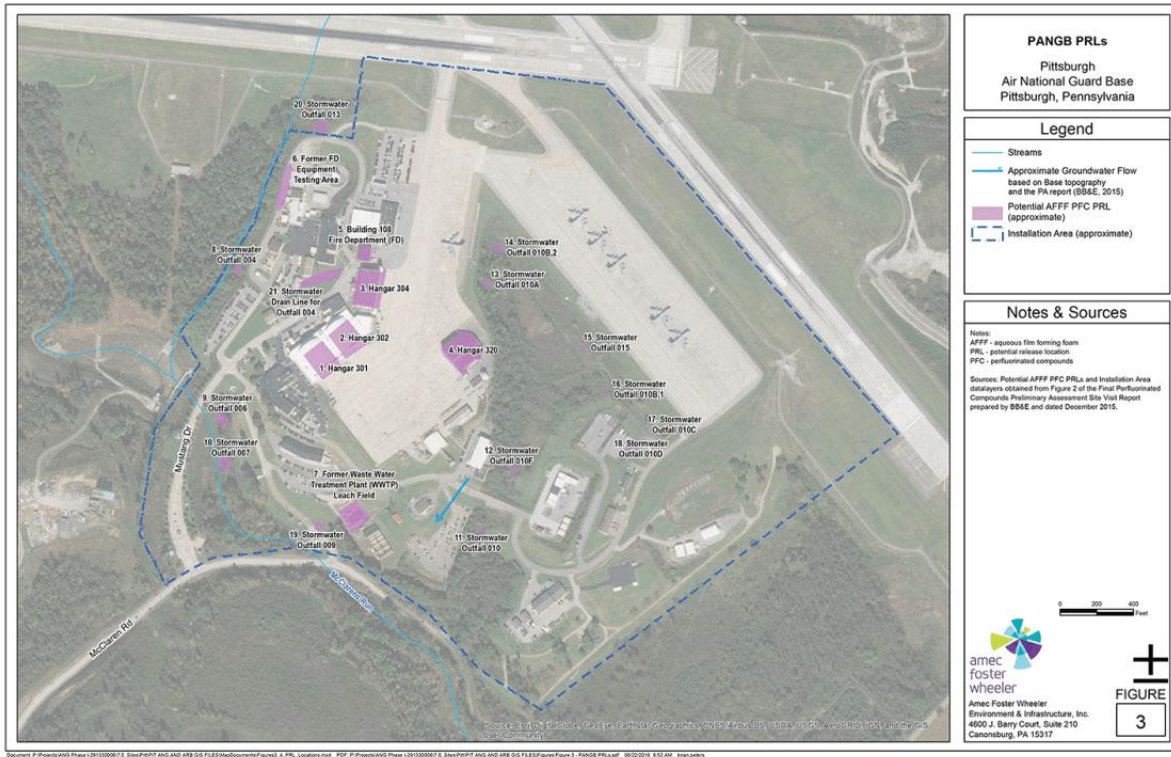
FIRE DEPT SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

<u>State</u>	<u>Facility Name</u>	<u>Type</u>
Montana	Rocky Mountain Emergency Services Training Center	ARFF Training Facility
New Hampshire	New Hampshire Fire Academy	ARFF Training Facility
New York	Port Authority Fire Training Facility (JFK)	ARFF Training Facility
New York	Niagara Falls International Airport, USAF Training Facility	ARFF Training Facility
New York	Northeast Fire Training Center	ARFF Training Facility
North Carolina	Fayetteville Regional Airport	ARFF Training Facility
North Dakota	North Dakota Air National Guard	ARFF Training Facility
Ohio	Fire Force Inc. (Groveport) Mobile Training	
Ohio	Wright Patterson AFB Fire Department	ARFF Training Facility
Oklahoma	International Fire Service Training Assn, IFSTA	ARFF Training Facility
Pennsylvania	Allegheny County Fire Academy	ARFF Training Facility
Pennsylvania	Philadelphia International Airport, Fire Training Center	ARFF Training Facility
South Carolina	South Carolina Fire Academy	ARFF Training Facility
South Dakota	Ellsworth AFB Fire & Emergency Services Training Facility	ARFF Training Facility
Texas	Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport	ARFF Training Facility
Texas	Texas State Certified Fire School	ARFF Training Facility
Texas	Laredo Fire & Police Training Center	ARFF Training Facility
Texas	Lubbock International Airport	ARFF Training Facility
Texas	Texas A&M Fire School	ARFF Training Facility
Utah	Salt Lake City Airport Authority, ARFF Training Center	ARFF Training Facility
Virginia	VDFP MARFFTS (Mobile-VA), Virginia Department of Fire Programs	ARFF Training Facility
Washington	Big Bend Community College	ARFF Training Facility
Washington	ARFF Training Concepts, Inc.	ARFF Training Facility
Washington	North Bend Washington State Patrol	ARFF Training Facility
West Virginia	West Virginia University – Fire Service Extension, State Fire Training Academy	ARFF Training Facility
Wisconsin	ATW ARFF Training Center, Fox Valley Technical College	ARFF Training Facility
Wisconsin	General Mitchell International Airport	ARFF Training Facility
Wisconsin	Sedlmeyer Consulting, LLC, Fire & Emergency Services	ARFF Training Facility
Wisconsin	Volk Field, Wisconsin Air National Guard	ARFF Training Facility
Wyoming	Natrona County International Airport, Wyoming Regional ARFF Training Facility	ARFF Training Facility
Pacific Region	Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Island, Pacific Region, ARFF Training Center, Saipan, MP	ARFF Training Facility

ARFF Training Facilities, FAA, October 8, 2021, https://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Advisory_Circular/150-5210-17c-addendum-Q1-2022.pdf and DRAFT Addendum. List of ARFF Training Facilities, https://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Advisory_Circular/draft_150_5210_17c_addendum.pdf

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FIRE DEPT SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT



Pittsburgh Air National Guard Base, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
 The pink areas are potential AFFF contamination sites.