

Dear LSC Campus Community:

In a few minutes from now, Lake Superior College and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) will issue a joint press release to announce plans to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination related to the use of firefighting foam used at the LSC Emergency Response Training Center (ERTC).

Firefighting foams that contain PFAS (sometimes called forever chemicals) were used for many years and are a common source of PFAS pollution, including in the Duluth region -- Fish Lake and Wild Rice Lake in St. Louis County have been linked to firefighting foam use at the Duluth Air Base. Programs like ours have used firefighting foams that contain PFAS for training purposes, and we have always been in compliance with the lawfully accepted levels. Since 2009, LSC and the MPCA have monitored PFAS levels in the water and around the ERTC. As experts have learned more about PFAS, and changed the recommended acceptable levels and PFAS regulations, LSC has always adapted to ensure we were meeting these standards.

We wanted you to know that LSC is fully cooperating and working with the MPCA and our environmental consultant to create a work plan for testing water and soil and for identifying mitigation steps. And, I am pleased to tell you that this issue does not affect Duluth drinking water or any households using private wells for drinking water within one mile of the training facility. We take the stewardship of our lands and waters very seriously. With appropriate measures in place to protect the environment, we also plan to move forward fulfilling the vital role we play in meeting Minnesota's workforce need for firefighters that are trained in the latest techniques and technologies.

To view the MPCA press release, please go to: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/news-and-stories/mpca-lake-superior-college-to-address-pfas-contamination-at-sargent-creek-in-duluth> sometime after 11am today.

Patricia L. Rogers, Ph.D.
President
Lake Superior College

Pronouns: She, Her, Hers -- [More about pronouns](#)