



GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY HEALTH
2600 LaFranier Road, Suite A
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-995-6111

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
2650 LaFranier Road
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-995-6051

ADMINISTRATION &
MEDICAL EXAMINER
2600 LaFranier Road, Suite A
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-995-6100

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT &
PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS
2600 LaFranier Road, Suite A
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-995-6100

www.gtchd.org

For Immediate Release
July 26, 2018

Warning of PFAS Contamination in Blair Township

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has identified four acres in Blair Township as a perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl or PFAS contamination site. The four acre site is located 900 feet west of the Blair Elementary School on a property previously known as Carl's Retreading.

In 1995 Carl's Retreading operated as a scrap tire collection/recycling site and was the location of a large tire fire which began in the tire shredding machine and burned for several weeks. During that time, an attempt to suppress the fire was made using aqueous film forming foam (AFFF), which contains PFAS. In recent years, the State of Michigan has begun investigating sources and locations of potential PFAS contamination in order to protect drinking water supplies. Experts have become increasingly concerned by the potential effects of high concentrations of PFAS on human health. Carl's Retreading site was identified as a PFAS site due to the use of AFFF during the fire. Sampling in May of 2018 confirmed the presence of PFAS in the groundwater at the site.

Along with the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART), The Grand Traverse County Health Department's Environmental Health Division is working to identify drinking water wells in the area that could be affected. Sampling of the drinking water at Blair Elementary School and one residence directly downgradient of the Carl's site was completed on July 16, 2018 and results are expected as early as next week. Once the concentration of PFAS in the drinking water supply is determined, a focused response will be initiated by the Grand Traverse Health Department. The response may include short term solutions such as point of use filters and/or bottled water or longer term solutions, such as connection to the Blair Township municipal water supply.

You can learn more about PFAS and responses to potential contamination on the MPART website: <https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse>

Specific and additional information regarding the Carl's Retreading location can be found at: https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/0,9038,7-365-86511_82704-473719--,00.html

More about PFAS exposure and the associated health risks can be found at: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/overview.html>

Any questions regarding wells or drinking water in areas near the Blair Township location should be directed to the Grand Traverse County Health Department's Environmental Health Division at 231-995-6051.

#

Media Contact:
Rose Ann M. Davis
rdavis@gtchd.org
231-995-6104