

Forever chemicals found in Androscoggin River after foam spill

by [Mal Meyer](#), WGME

<https://wgme.com/news/local/forever-chemicals-found-in-androscoggin-river-after-foam-spill-pfas>

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Forever chemicals have now been found in the Androscoggin River. (WGME)

[PFAS Androscoggin River Firefighting foam Brunswick Naval Air Station Contamination Friends of Merrymeeting Bay Wastewater treatment Environmental monitoring](#)

BRUNSWICK (WGME) – Forever chemicals have now been found in the Androscoggin River.

A group took water samples around the area after a massive spill of toxic firefighting foam last month at the former Brunswick Naval Air Station.

Now, the results are in.

“It’s heartbreaking,” one volunteer said.

total concentration of 16474.6 ppt

PFAS LEVELS SPIKED IN RIVER AFTER BRUNSWICK FOAM SPILL

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What's In My Water?	
Sample	09/11/2024
Location	Androscoggin River
Operator	Friends of Merrymeeting Bay
Sample Date	09/11/2024
Sample Time	10:30 AM
Sample Depth	Surface
Sample Volume	100 mL
Sample ID	16474.6
Sample Name	Androscoggin River
Sample Address	Androscoggin River
Sample City	Androscoggin
Sample State	ME
Sample Zip	04002
Sample County	Androscoggin
Sample Latitude	43.111111
Sample Longitude	-70.833333
Sample Elevation	100
Sample Temperature	10.0
Sample pH	7.0
Sample Conductivity	100
Sample Turbidity	1.0
Sample Total Solids	100
Sample Total Suspended Solids	100
Sample Total Dissolved Solids	100
Sample Hardness	100
Sample Chloride	100
Sample Sulfate	100
Sample Nitrate	100
Sample Nitrite	100
Sample Ammonia	100
Sample Phosphate	100
Sample Silica	100
Sample Iron	100
Sample Manganese	100
Sample Copper	100
Sample Lead	100
Sample Cadmium	100
Sample Zinc	100
Sample Barium	100
Sample Strontium	100
Sample Selenium	100
Sample Molybdenum	100
Sample Vanadium	100
Sample Chromium	100
Sample Cobalt	100
Sample Nickel	100
Sample Boron	100
Sample Fluoride	100
Sample Iodine	100
Sample Bromine	100
Sample Chlorine	100
Sample Oxygen	100
Sample Hydrogen	100
Sample Carbon	100
Sample Nitrogen	100
Sample Sulfur	100
Sample Phosphorus	100
Sample Silicon	100
Sample Iron	100
Sample Manganese	100
Sample Copper	100
Sample Lead	100
Sample Cadmium	100
Sample Zinc	100
Sample Barium	100
Sample Strontium	100
Sample Selenium	100
Sample Molybdenum	100
Sample Vanadium	100
Sample Chromium	100
Sample Cobalt	100
Sample Nickel	100
Sample Boron	100
Sample Fluoride	100
Sample Iodine	100
Sample Bromine	100
Sample Chlorine	100
Sample Oxygen	100
Sample Hydrogen	100
Sample Carbon	100
Sample Nitrogen	100
Sample Sulfur	100
Sample Phosphorus	100
Sample Silicon	100

The nonprofit Friends of Merrymeeting Bay collected samples right by a sewer treatment plant discharge pipe.

- Also read: [Brunswick residents voice concern over transparency around PFAS foam spill](#)

“The contamination from the outfall pipe was very high, the highest we've ever seen it,” Friends of Merrymeeting Bay Chair Ed Friedman said.

Test results show the total concentration of all the PFAS in the sample was 16,000 parts per trillion.

“The highest we've ever gotten from the outfall pipe before has been like two or three hundred parts per trillion,” Friedman said.

The testing happened three days after the AFFF spill at Hangar 4 last month, when officials say the foam loaded with PFAS got into the sewer system, reaching the treatment plant within a couple of hours.



More than 1,400 gallons of firefighting foam containing forever chemicals spilled at Brunswick Executive Airport and leaked into a nearby pond in Aug. (WGME)

“It’s not possible to treat wastewater because of the amount of solids in it through a filter,” Brunswick Sewer District General Manager Robert Pontau said. “So that’s really not an option for us at this time.”



The Department of Environmental Protection has also been monitoring the discharge.

- Also read: [Maine lawmakers call for accountability in toxic foam spill in Brunswick](#)

A spokesperson says preliminary data shows a declining trend in PFAS levels.

CBS13 has requested the results.

“There will be residual for quite some time where it either sticks to the pipes or sticks to the pump station,” Pontau said.

Pontau says they're doing what they can while understanding the problem started elsewhere.

“We really need to stop it at the source,” Pontau said. “We need to stop using these products. Get it out of the system all together.”