VILLAGE OF TIJERAS NEWSLETTER

April 2026

Pine View Project Update

Construction is now underway on Pine View. Crews are actively working in the area, we ask residents to proceed with caution and allow extra travel time. We appreciate your cooperation as we move forward with these improvements.

EARTH DAY COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP

Join us in celebrating Earth Day with a community clean-up event!

Date: Saturday, April 25,2026

Time: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Location: Village Hall

Dumpsters will be available on-site including:

- Two Dumpsters for general trash.
- One Dumpster designated for tire disposal.

Help us keep our community clean & beautiful - we look forward to seeing you there!

Dumpsters will be on-site until filled.

Public Meeting Reminder

We encourage all residents and community members to stay informed and get involved! Please remember that all Village Council Meetings and Planning & Zoning Hearings are open to the public. Your participation and input is always welcome.

Meeting dates, times, and locations are posted on our website, in the monthly newsletter, and at six locations throughout the Village. You may also call Village Hall or email us for more information.

We enourage you to join us, stay informed, and share your input!

SENIOR CENTER REMINDERS

AARP Tax Assistance
Available through April 13, 2026.
Call (505) 286-4220 or (505) 269-7518 for availability.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Council Meetings
Monday April 13, 2026

Planning & Zoning Hearings
Wednesday April 8, 2026
Wednesday April 22, 2026

TIJERASNM.GOV (505) 281-1220 CLERK@TIJERASNM.GOV

VILLAGE OF TIJERAS

PFAS TESTING UPDATE AND WATER SYSTEM ACTIONS

Dear Residents,

APRIL 2026

I want to provide an important update regarding recent water testing in the Village of Tijeras and what it means for our community.

On March 11, 2026, the Village, in coordination with the New Mexico Environment Department, conducted sampling at all three of our municipal wells and their entry points into the distribution system to test for PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). The results showed that one location in our system had elevated levels of two PFAS compounds (PFOS at 5.3 ng/L and PFOA at 4.9 ng/L). The other wells did not show exceedances, although small amounts of PFAS were detected and are being managed through existing treatment.

Out of an abundance of caution, the Mayor directed that Well 3 (Camino Primera Agua) be taken offline on March 23, 2026. Since that time, our water operators have been actively working to reduce exposure and improve overall water quality by flushing the system, including opening hydrants throughout the Village and refreshing water in our storage tanks. These tanks are expected to be fully replenished with cleaner water within approximately 30 days.

PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals found in a variety of consumer and industrial products. They are primarily a concern with long-term exposure over time, rather than short-term use.

Based on guidance from the New Mexico Environment Department, residents are encouraged to reduce exposure where possible. This includes avoiding the use of untreated water from the affected source for drinking and cooking. Short-term options such as bottled water, water from a verified safe source, or certified home filtration systems designed to reduce PFAS may be used to limit exposure.

This situation falls under a Tier 3 notification category under the Safe Drinking Water Act. This means there is no immediate or acute health emergency, but it is important that we remain transparent and take appropriate steps to address long-term exposure.

The Village is continuing to work closely with the New Mexico Environment Department's Emerging Contaminants Program to monitor water quality, evaluate treatment options, and plan for long-term solutions. We also said yes to an offer for a no-cost engineering evaluation to help guide future improvements to our water system.

I want you to know that we are taking this matter seriously and acting quickly to protect public health. We are committed to transparency and will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available.

PFAS Information & Frequently Asked Questions
IMPORTANT: WHAT YOU SHOULD DO RIGHT NOW

What are PFAS?
PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are man-made chemicals found in products like non-stick cookware, waterproof clothing, and food packaging. They are often called “forever chemicals” because they break down very slowly.

Is our water safe to drink?
PFAS are mainly a concern with long-term exposure over time, not short-term use. Residents are encouraged to reduce exposure where possible and avoid using untreated water for drinking and cooking.

Can I shower, wash dishes, or do laundry?
Yes. PFAS are not easily absorbed through the skin.
·Showering
·Laundry
·Cleaning
These uses are considered low risk.

Can I cook with the water?
It is recommended to avoid using untreated water for cooking, since PFAS exposure primarily occurs through ingestion.

Does boiling water remove PFAS?
No. Boiling water does not remove PFAS and may increase concentration.

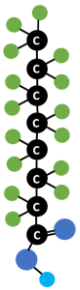
What kind of filters work?
·Activated carbon filters
·Reverse osmosis systems
Look for NSF/ANSI certification for PFAS reduction.

What is the Village doing?
·The Mayor directed Well 3 offline (March 23, 2026)
·Reduced reliance on affected sources
·Flushing the water system
·Refilling storage tanks with cleaner water

Is this an emergency?
No. This is a Tier 3 notification, meaning: - No immediate health emergency

PFAS Explained:

Scientific studies have shown that exposure to some PFAS in the environment may be linked to harmful health effects in humans and animals.



What are PFAS?

PFAS are manufactured chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products since the 1940s.
Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, many PFAS are found in the blood of people and animals all over the world. There are thousands of different PFAS, some of which have been more widely used and studied than others.

Are PFAS safe?

Research is ongoing to determine how exposure to different PFAS can lead to a variety of health effects. Studies have shown that exposure to certain levels of PFAS may lead to:

Cancer Effects
Increased risk of some cancers, including prostate, kidney, and testicular cancers.

Weight Effects
Increased cholesterol levels and/or risk of obesity.

Immune Effects
Reduced ability of the body's immune system to fight infections.

Developmental Effects
Low birth weight, accelerated puberty, bone variations, or behavioral changes.

Reproductive Effects
Decreased fertility or increased high blood pressure in pregnant women.

The more we learn about PFAS chemicals, the more we learn that certain PFAS can cause health risks even at very low levels. This is why anything we can do to reduce PFAS in water, soil, and air, can have a meaningful impact on health. EPA is taking action to reduce PFAS in water and in the environment. You can also take action if you remain concerned about your own risk.

Read on to learn where PFAS are coming from, how EPA is taking action on PFAS, and what actions you can take.

PFAS Explained:

Where are PFAS found?

Most people in the United States have been exposed to some PFAS. People can be exposed to PFAS by touching, drinking, eating, or breathing in materials containing PFAS. PFAS may be present in:

Drinking Water
An important potential source of PFAS exposure.

Waste Sites
Soil and water at or near landfills, disposal sites, and hazardous waste sites.

Fire Extinguishing Foam
Used in training and emergency response events at airports and firefighting training facilities.

Facilities
Chrome plating, electronics, and certain textile and paper manufacturers that produce or use PFAS.

Consumer Products
Stain- or water-repellent, or non-stick products, paints, sealants, and some personal care products.

Food Packaging
Grease-resistant paper, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes, and candy wrappers.

Biosolids
Fertilizer from wastewater treatment plants used on agricultural lands can affect ground and surface water.

Food
Fish caught from water contaminated by PFAS and dairy products from livestock exposed to PFAS.

Very little of the PFAS in water can get into your body through your skin, so, showering, bathing, and washing dishes in water containing PFAS are unlikely to significantly increase your risk.

EPA's researchers and partners across the country are working hard to understand how much PFAS people are exposed to and how.

Keep reading to find out how EPA is taking action on PFAS.

EPA is taking action to address PFAS

In October 2021, EPA released its PFAS Strategic Roadmap, which highlights concrete actions the Agency will take across a range of environmental media and EPA program offices to protect people and the environment from PFAS contamination. The Roadmap is guided by three primary goals:

- **Research** — Invest in research, development, and innovation
- **Restrict** — Prevent PFAS from entering air, land, and water
- **Remediate** — Broaden and accelerate the cleanup of PFAS contamination

Since the Roadmap's release, EPA has taken a number of key actions including:

- **Began distributing $10 billion in funding to address emerging contaminants under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).**
- **Issued health advisories for PFAS and proposed new, legally, enforceable Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for six PFAS substances known to occur in drinking water.**
- **Proposed to designate two PFAS as CERCLA hazardous substances.**
- **Laid the foundation for enhancing data on PFAS.**

To learn more about the PFAS Strategic Roadmap and key actions taken by EPA scan the QR code.

SCAN ME

Turn the page to learn what actions you can take.

EPA

PFAS Explained:

Actions you can take: Protect your drinking water

1

Find out if PFAS are in your drinking water:

- If you get your water from a public drinking water system, reach out to your local water utility to see if they do testing. Or, you can choose to test the water yourself.
- If you get your water from a home drinking water well, you are responsible for conducting regular testing.
- If you choose to test your water yourself, contact your state environmental or health agency for detailed advice or to obtain a list of state-certified laboratories using EPA-developed testing methods in drinking water.

2

Compare your results to your state standards for safe levels of PFAS in drinking water or to EPA's Health Advisory Levels (HALs) for PFAS.

Scan this code for more information about HALs:

SCAN ME

3

Take protective action!

- Contact your state environmental and health agencies for recommendations.
- Consider installing an in-home water treatment (e.g., filters) that are certified to lower the levels of PFAS in your water.
- Consider using an alternate water source for activity when your family might swallow water.

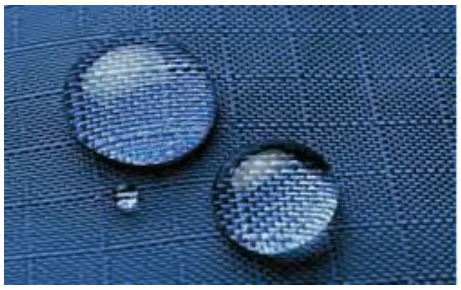
EPA makes frequent updates to its PFAS website:

To learn more about PFAS, scan the QR code to the right or go to https://www.epa.gov/pfas.

SCAN ME

How to Reduce Your Exposure to PFAS

PFAS-REACH
PFAS Research, Education, and Action for Community Health



PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a class of chemicals that companies add to consumer products to make them nonstick, waterproof, and stain-resistant. They are found in carpets and upholstery, waterproof apparel, non-stick cookware, grease-proof food packaging, and even dental floss. They are also used in firefighting foams for putting out fuel fires.

Unfortunately, studies have linked these chemicals with a range of health problems including thyroid disease, cancer, high cholesterol, obesity, and effects on the immune system. Luckily, there are simple steps you can take to reduce your everyday exposure to PFAS and create a healthier environment for you and your loved ones.

In your personal life:

- ✓ Avoid stain-resistant carpets and upholstery, as well as stain-resistant treatments and waterproofing sprays.
- ✓ Avoid products with the ingredient PTFE or other “fluoro” ingredients listed on the label.
- ✓ Choose cookware made of cast iron, stainless steel, glass, or enamel instead of Teflon.
- ✓ Filter your drinking water with an activated carbon or reverse osmosis filtration system.
- ✓ Eat more fresh foods to avoid take-out containers and other food packaging.
- ✓ Avoid microwave popcorn and greasy foods wrapped in paper.
- ✓ Look for nylon or silk dental floss that is uncoated or coated in natural wax.

In your community:

- ✓ Tell retailers and manufacturers you want products made without PFAS.
- ✓ Urge your local water utility to test for PFAS.
- ✓ Ask your state legislators to set up a statewide water and blood testing program.
- ✓ Encourage your state to follow the lead of other states in creating more health protective drinking water limits.
- ✓ Ask your elected officials to support restrictions on PFAS in consumer products and remediation of contaminated sites.
- ✓ Find out about local groups working to protect water quality by visiting:

www.pfas-exchange.org

NIH NIEHS

PFAS-REACH is a five-year project funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) under grant R01ES028311.

PFAS-REACH is led by Silent Spring Institute in collaboration with Northeastern University and Michigan State University. Community partners include Testing for Pease, Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition, and Toxics Action Center.

How Can PFAS Affect Your Health?

PFAS-REACH
PFAS Research, Education, and Action for Community Health

PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are among the most ubiquitous synthetic chemicals in the world. Approximately 98 percent of Americans have PFAS in their bodies. People can be exposed to these chemicals in many different ways—through the water they drink, the products they use, the air they breathe, and the food they eat. During pregnancy, PFAS can pass from the mother to the fetus through the umbilical cord, and babies can be exposed through breast milk or formula made with contaminated water.

Their strong chemical bonds and unique structures make them very effective at repelling water and oil even at high temperatures. These same characteristics also make PFAS extremely persistent, meaning they don't break down in the environment. Even more concerning, some PFAS can remain in the body for years, and people continue to be exposed to the chemicals.

Because of their persistence and because exposures are so widespread, scientists are concerned about the potential health impacts. Most health studies have looked at PFOA and PFOS, the two most commonly found PFAS. However, new research suggests other types of PFAS have similar health effects.

Learn more: www.pfas-exchange.org

Although the science on health effects is still evolving, scientists are increasingly concerned about low-dose exposures, as they continue to find health effects at lower and lower levels. More research is needed on other PFAS chemicals, in particular ones that companies have developed to replace PFOA and PFOS. Because people are exposed to multiple PFAS from multiple sources, researchers are beginning to investigate the effects of mixtures of PFAS on human health.

Scientific studies have linked exposure to PFAS with:

Human studies

- High cholesterol
- Ulcerative colitis
- Cancer (testicular, kidney)
- Preeclampsia
- Liver damage
- Thyroid disease
- Decreased vaccine response
- Asthma
- Decreased fertility
- Lower birth weight

Animal studies

- Cancer (testicular, liver, pancreatic)
- Liver damage
- Delayed mammary gland development
- Developmental problems
- Effects on brain development
- Immune system effects
- Changes in cholesterol levels
- Changes in thyroid hormones
- Low birth weight

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