

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO MILITARY VETERANS\*\*\***

**Are you a US Military veteran and/or a family member exposed to PFAS chemicals, or not even sure what PFAS chemicals are?**

PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are a group of human-made chemicals that have become a pressing environmental and health concern. Known for their heat, oil, and water-resistant properties, they have been widely used in countless products for decades.

Unfortunately, these same properties make them incredibly persistent in the environment, earning them the nickname "forever chemicals." A recent study found that troops were exposed to "forever chemicals" in drinking water on base or at off-base locations near military installations across the United States. It is believed that the contamination was caused by using firefighting foam containing PFAS chemicals that have been linked to serious health problems.

If you or a loved one have been diagnosed with liver, kidney or testicular cancer, or ulcerative colitis since the year 2000, you might be entitled to compensation by filing a PFAS lawsuit based on negligence, failure to warn, and product liability on the part of the manufacturers.

There have been a significant number of cases filed in State and Federal Courts addressing potential liability due to the manufacture and use of PFAS chemicals. Many of these cases in multiple jurisdictions have been combined into the "Aqueous Film-Forming (AFFF) Products Liability Litigation MDL 2873" placed under the jurisdiction of the US District Court, District of South Carolina.

**Have questions? Talk to an expert! Contact attorney and VFW member Jason Johns phone number (608) 209-0805 or email him at [fightin4vets@gmail.com](mailto:fightin4vets@gmail.com).**

**AND ON THE VA SIDE OF THE ISSUE**

**VA Announces That It Will Undertake to Study Link Between PFAS Chemicals and Kidney Cancer for Potential Presumptive Benefits**

On September 25, 2024, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it will study the link between PFAS chemicals and kidney cancer. Importantly, officials will seek to determine if kidney cancer should be considered a presumptive condition to receive VA benefits for those exposed to PFAS chemicals. A presumptive condition means that the veteran does not need to prove the link between their illness and the exposure; they only need to prove they were present at certain locations during specific times in their military service.

VA Secretary Denis McDonough said in a statement, "As a result of this scientific review, we may be able to make kidney cancer a presumptive condition for Veterans exposed to PFAS, thus lowering the burden of proof on these Veterans." These studies are part of the PACT Act, signed into law on August 10, 2022, which expands VA benefits and health care for veterans exposed to toxic chemicals.