

# PFAS - Windsor Communication (and a Little Science)

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Environmental Health Section**

**State of Connecticut  
Department of Public Health**

- Spill on weekend (of course!)
- DEEP Oil & Chemical Spills called the Department of Public Health and Local Health Department
- Immediate Press Release
  - DO NOT EAT FISH
  - DO NOT COME IN CONTACT WITH FOAM
- Department of Public Health talked to Local Health Department about advice and signs

# Exposure Potential

- Public Exposure Likely Very Low
- No Drinking Water Likely Impacted
- Fish known to accumulate but limited data
- PFAS - Very Little Skin Absorption
  - Just Precautionary Advice on Foam Contact
- Confusion about Boating and Swimming.

# Uncertainty in Early Stages

- No Water Data at First
- The Foam was not everywhere
- Fast Moving River and PFAS is Water Soluble
- Would the PFAS be there long enough to Impact Fish?
- Does it Collect in Sediments?

# SIGNAGE

- The Department of Public Health gave the Local Health Department existing “DO NOT EAT” Fish Signs.
- The Department of Public Health also translated signs to Spanish.
- Local health Department drafted a more comprehensive Sign-Skin Contact.



**Warning!**

**Do Not Eat Fish From These Waters!**



Fish caught from these waters may contain dangerous chemicals and should not be eaten.

Este aviso indica que el agua de esta zona puede contener productos químicos peligrosos que pueden ser dañinos para la salud humana si se consumen los peces capturados en esta zona.

CT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY SERVICES

**¡Alerta!**

**No coma pescado de esta agua!**



Pescado de esta agua puede contener productos químicos peligrosos que pueden ser dañinos para la salud humana.

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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## HEALTH ADVISORY

Wednesday, October 2, 2019 –

The Connecticut Department of Public Health and the Town of Windsor are alerting the public to a potential discharge of firefighting foam into the Farmington River in Windsor originating from the Bradley International Airport plane crash emergency response on October 2, 2019.

**The public is advised not to come into contact with foam they may encounter on the Farmington River or the river banks, as well as do not take or consume fish from the river.**

For details and updated information, go to [www.townofwindsor.com](http://www.townofwindsor.com)

This advisory will remain in place while officials evaluate the potential impact to the watershed.

Windsor Health Department  
400.285.1822



## AVISO DE SALUD

Miércoles 2 de octubre de 2019

El Departamento de Salud Pública de Connecticut y la ciudad de Windsor están alertando al público sobre una posible descarga de espuma de extinción de incendios en el río Farmington en Windsor que se originó en la respuesta de emergencia de accidente aéreo del Aeropuerto Internacional Bradley el 2 de octubre de 2019.

**Se aconseja al público que no entre en contacto con la espuma que pueda encontrar en el río Farmington o en las orillas del río, así como que no tome ni consuma peces del río.**

# Public Meeting

- Held 3 Weeks after spill
- LHD, town and legislature representatives organized
- Public allowed to present
- Messages were well received - DEEP gave most detail
- Questions about pets and wildlife - hard to answer
- Private well questions arose



- Gave Town Officials Updates - ongoing basis
- Meetings or phone calls with town officials
- Constants contact with LHD
- Town and LHD part of decision making process

# Data keeps coming in:

- Surface water concentrations decreased rapidly
  - Swimming and boating are OK
- Fish data - came in September and October
  - Confirmed our advice not to eat fish!
  - 170 ppb (-159 ppb cut off)
  - Surprising result - new for us

# Second Public Meeting October 30, 2019

- Confirmed fish data presented
- Future sampling plans - more fish, private wells
- Complications of PFAS from 10/2 plane crash
- Irrigation questions? No data.
- Direct outreach to residents on plane crash
- More fish data coming - September sampling 3 months to get data

# Many Unknowns:

- How long will fish be impacted?
- Migrating fish like shad?
- Crops impacted?
- Any health impacts?
- Any more fish sampling?

# Summary

- PFAS very high profile right now, so concern is elevated
- Drinking Water will be the future problem in more locations
- Windsor was unique as an emergency
- Background exposures need to be considered
- LHDs critical in risk communication efforts!