

# ATSDR to Re-Evaluate 1985-1994 Drinking Water

## Exposures at Fort Ord

February 2023

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) will re-evaluate potential health risks from drinking water exposures that occurred between 1985-1994 at Fort Ord, California. We will use new tools and methods to re-analyze data from 1985 through 1994. This fact sheet describes what ATSDR will be doing there, how we will communicate, and what we did in the past.

ATSDR will re-evaluate potential health risks related to drinking water exposures that occurred between 1985-1994.

- New science is available about the health risks from contaminants found at Fort Ord.
- New methods and tools are available to analyze data.
- We will be able to better describe data gaps that limit our ability to draw health conclusions.

We will re-analyze drinking water data from 1985–1994.

- No drinking water data are available before 1985.
- Active operations at the fort ended in 1994.
- Drinking water data for this period are available from the U.S. Army and the Marina Coast Water District.

ATSDR's re-evaluation will use new science, methods, and tools to better understand exposures that took place between 1985 and 1994.

- Scientific advances since 1994 have given us a better understanding of how trichloroethylene (TCE), tetrachloroethylene (PCE), and carbon tetrachloride can affect human health.
- New ATSDR methods and tools can be used to estimate exposures from showering and other household water uses.

ATSDR will communicate regularly with the community.

ATSDR is committed to ongoing communication and information sharing with the community and other organizations about our public health assessment process, findings, and recommendations. Findings from the public health re-evaluation of past drinking water data will be released in a written report (<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/>).



U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services  
Agency for Toxic Substances  
and Disease Registry

## ATSDR conducted previous public health evaluations at Fort Ord.

- 1996 Fort Ord public health assessment report — In 1996, ATSDR evaluated past and potential future drinking water exposures, physical hazards associated with unexploded ordnance, stormwater outfall discharges, and lead contamination at the Beach Range. It concluded there was no apparent public health hazard. A copy of this report is available by contacting ATSDR Region 9 staff members.
- 2001 Fort Ord health consultation report — In 2001, ATSDR evaluated air data from a previous controlled burn at the site to help the Army develop a plan to collect air pollution data during a future controlled burn. ATSDR made recommendations for future sampling. A copy of this report is available by contacting ATSDR Region 9 staff.
- 2005 Fort Ord health consultation report — In 2005, ATSDR evaluated air monitoring data to determine whether chemicals released during a prescribed burn were a potential public health hazard to surrounding communities. ATSDR found that the October 2003 burn posed “no apparent public health hazard.” A copy of this report is available online at <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/pha/FormerFortOrd020305-CA/FormerFortOrd020305-CA.pdf>

## About Fort Ord

The U.S. Army established the 27,827-acre Fort Ord site in Monterey County, California, in 1917. In 1990, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency placed Fort Ord on the Superfund program’s National Priorities List of contaminated sites. Fort Ord closed in 1994. Since then, the Army has completed many investigations and cleanup actions. It also transferred large portions of the property to adjacent cities, the state, and others. More information is available on the Army’s cleanup website (<https://www.fortordcleanup.com/>).

## About ATSDR

ATSDR is a non-regulatory federal public health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ATSDR works with other agencies, tribal, state, and local governments to investigate possible health risks in communities where people could contact dangerous chemicals. For more information about ATSDR, visit our website at <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/>.

## Where to get more information

Contact ATSDR Region 9 with questions about the work:

- Jamie Rayman, Health Educator and Community Involvement Specialist, [jrayman@cdc.gov](mailto:jrayman@cdc.gov)
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