



# PFOS/PFOA Background

- **PFOS/PFOA are part of a class of man-made chemicals used in many industrial and consumer products to make the products resist heat, stains, water, and grease**
  - Examples include: Teflon<sup>®</sup> cookware, waterproofing fabric and coating on fast food wrappers
- **Limited human studies show PFOS/PFOA may be associated with developmental delays in fetuses & children; decreased fertility; increased cholesterol; changes to the immune system; increased uric acid levels; changes in liver enzymes; and prostate, kidney, and testicular cancer**
- **In the 1970's DoD began using a firefighting foam (aqueous film forming foam –AFFF), which contained PFOS to extinguish petroleum fires**
  - Some AFFF formulations may also contain PFOA
- **In May 2000 the primary American manufacturers began phasing out the production of PFOS/PFOA related products**