

What are PFAS and TFAS?

Bishops Lodge Resort is putting the aquifer, wells and ultimately the drinking water of the entire Tesuque Valley at **risk of contamination of PFAS and TFAS chemicals**. Their undersized leach field is positioned only several feet above the aquifer, dangerously close to Little Tesuque Creek and is receiving partially treated sewage from 80+ homes and an entire resort. This poses an imminent threat to our community's health and well-being.

For many of us, PFAS and TFAS are vague designations, and we may need to fully understand the dangers of these chemicals.

PFAS (per and poly-fluoroalkyl substances) and TFAS (total fluorinated alkyl substances) are chemicals found in contaminated water sources and will accumulate in the body over time.

Long-term exposure to these substances in drinking water is associated with various health effects. Symptoms may not be immediately noticeable as PFAS and TFAS accumulate in the body over time and can be severe and life-threatening.

Here are some potential symptoms and health risks associated with PFAS and TFAS exposure:

1. Gastrointestinal Symptoms

- Nausea
- Diarrhea
- Abdominal pain

2. Liver Damage

- Elevated liver enzymes (often detected in blood tests)
- Potential for liver inflammation or damage over time

3. Immune System Effects

- Weakened immune response
- Increased susceptibility to infections
- Reduced vaccine effectiveness, particularly in children

4. Endocrine Disruption and Hormonal Changes

- Thyroid hormone imbalances, potentially leading to hypothyroidism or hyperthyroidism
- Altered hormone levels, including estrogen and testosterone, which may affect reproductive health

5. Increased Cancer Risk

- Higher likelihood of certain types of cancers, such as kidney and testicular cancers, with prolonged exposure

6. Reproductive Health Issues

- Reduced fertility in both men and women
- Higher risk of preeclampsia and hypertension during pregnancy
- Increased risk of developmental issues in fetuses and infants
- High blood pressure during pregnancy

7. Metabolic Effects

- Changes in cholesterol levels, including increased LDL (bad cholesterol) and reduced HDL (good cholesterol)
- Higher risk of obesity and related metabolic conditions, like diabetes

8. Behavioral and Cognitive Effects in Children

- Potential developmental delays, including cognitive and behavioral issues
- Impact on learning, attention, and behavior in children exposed prenatally or in early childhood

9. Kidney and Bladder Issues

- Possible renal dysfunction over time
- Increased risk of kidney and bladder conditions, including potential for cancer

10. Cardiovascular Issues

- Increased risk of hypertension (high blood pressure)
- Potential for cardiovascular disease over time

These are real dangers and are irreversible.

