



PFAS Makers' Share of Federal Land Contamination Lawsuits, FY2006–FY2025

Original analysis of 16,071 records from the Federal Judicial Center, FY2006–FY2025 (federal fiscal years, Oct–Sep), plus FY2026 through June 30, 2026. Published October 20, 2026. <https://settlementinsight.com/research/pfas-share-property-contamination-lawsuits>

In fiscal year 2025, 205 of the 732 torts-to-land case records in U.S. district courts, which count transfers into multidistrict litigation, (28.0%) named a PFAS or firefighting-foam maker as the first defendant, most often 3M. Leaving out cases transferred into a multidistrict litigation, which the court data list a second time, the share is 20.3%. Across FY2016 to FY2018 combined, it was 1.4%.

28%

PFAS maker first, FY2025 records incl. MDL transfers

23%

3M first, FY2025 records incl. MDL transfers

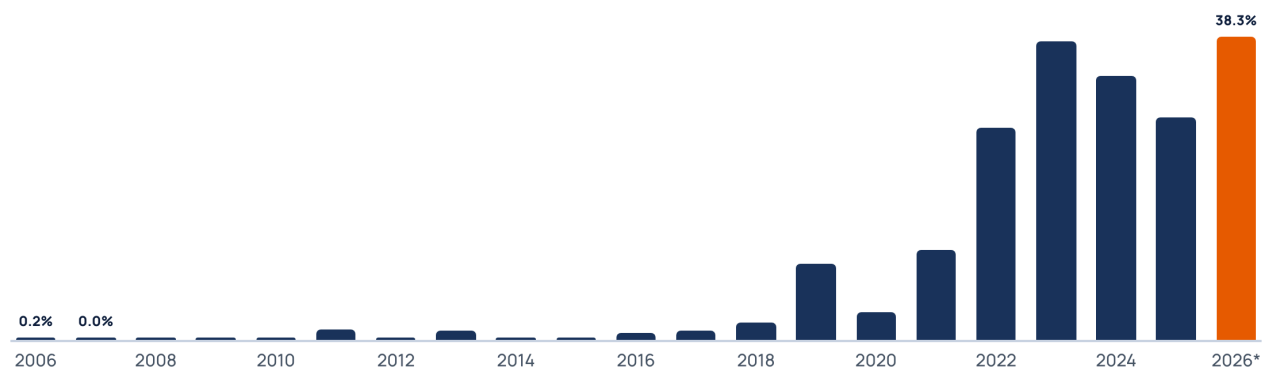
20%

PFAS maker first, FY2025 records excl. MDL transfers



Share of torts-to-land cases with a PFAS or AFFF maker as first defendant

* 2026: Oct–Jun, partial



Source: Settlement Insight analysis of data from the Federal Judicial Center

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What the Federal Court Records Show

- 1. More than a quarter of the category.** Of 732 torts-to-land case records in FY2025, including transfers into a multidistrict litigation, 205 (28.0%) listed a PFAS or AFFF maker as the first defendant, down from 33.2% in FY2024.

2. **3M is named first in most of them.** 3M was the first defendant in 167 of the 205 PFAS maker cases in FY2025 (81.5%); AGC Chemicals Americas or AGC Inc. was first in 37.
3. **From almost none to a large share.** In FY2016 through FY2018 combined, 29 of 2,046 torts-to-land cases (1.4%) named a PFAS maker first. Among complete fiscal years, the count was highest in FY2023 with 470 cases (37.7%).
4. **Many arrive through removal or the MDL.** Of the FY2025 PFAS maker cases, 94 were removed from state court and 76 were transferred into a multidistrict litigation; 31 were filed directly in federal court.
5. **Two courts hold most of the cases.** The District of South Carolina received 104 PFAS maker cases in FY2025 and the Southern District of New York 62, together 81.0% of the national total. Many South Carolina records are MDL transfers of suits also counted in the district where they were filed or removed.
6. **Partial FY2026 data.** From October 2025 through June 2026, 233 of 608 torts-to-land cases (38.3%) named a PFAS maker first; the year is incomplete and courts are still reporting cases.

How we measured

Data come from the Federal Judicial Center's Integrated Database (IDB) of federal civil cases, release with cases filed through June 30, 2026, imported on October 10, 2026. We selected every case with nature of suit code 240 (torts to land) or 245 (tort product liability under real property) filed from October 1, 2005, through June 30, 2026, and assigned each to a federal fiscal year (October 1 to September 30) by its filing date (field fileddate, not the release year). The IDB sometimes repeats the same filing in a later annual release; rows with the same district, office, docket number, filing date and origin code are counted once (14 such repeats removed), leaving 16,071 records. Rows with the same docket but a different filing date or origin code, such as reopened cases or transfers into a multidistrict litigation, remain separate records.

A case counts as a PFAS maker case when the first-listed defendant, after removing punctuation and spaces and a leading "The", begins with the name of one of these makers of PFAS chemicals or firefighting foam: 3M (incl. Minnesota Mining); E. I. du Pont de Nemours in any spelling (El DuPont, EIDP, DuPont), DowDuPont, Chemours or Corteva; AGC Chemicals Americas or AGC Inc.; Tyco Fire Products; Chemguard; Kidde-Fenwal; Kidde PLC; National Foam; Buckeye Fire Equipment; Dynax; Archroma; Clariant; Solvay; Daikin America; or the AFFF defendant named exactly Chemicals, Inc. Prefix matching is needed because the court data cut defendant names at about 30 characters, as in 3M Company f/k/a Minnesota Mining. Not counted are companies that used or released PFAS but are not listed makers, such as Saint-Gobain or Wolverine, and other chemical or equipment companies including The Dow Chemical Company, BASF, Honeywell, Carrier, Arkema, Walter Kidde Portable Equipment and Kidde Technologies. The peak year is the fiscal year with the most PFAS maker cases among the complete years FY2006 to FY2025; partial FY2026 is excluded.

Like the official caseload tables, we count every record the courts report as commenced, including removals, reopened cases and cases transferred into a multidistrict litigation. To check the method, we compared our totals with Table C-2 of the U.S. courts: we count 732 cases in FY2025 against 733 published and 1,164 in FY2024 against 1,162 published. A second share leaves out cases transferred into an MDL under 28 U.S.C. § 1407 (origin code 6), so that a suit transferred into the MDL is not counted a second time.

Checked against published figures

- Torts to land cases, including product liability (nature of suit 240 + 245), commenced in U.S. district courts, 12 months ending Sep 30, 2025: published 733, our count 732 (0.14% apart). [Table C-2. U.S. District Courts - Civil Cases Commenced, by Basis of Jurisdiction and Nature of Suit, During the 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2024 and 2025](#)
- Torts to land cases, including product liability (nature of suit 240 + 245), commenced in U.S. district courts, 12 months ending Sep 30, 2024: published 1,162, our count 1,164 (0.17% apart). [Table C-2. U.S. District Courts - Civil Cases Commenced, by Basis of Jurisdiction and Nature of Suit, During the 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2024 and 2025](#)

Limitations

- The court data list only the first defendant. A suit that names 3M or another PFAS maker second or later is not counted, so the shares are a lower bound.
- The court data do not record which substance a case is about. A small number of suits against these companies, especially before FY2019, may concern other chemicals or sites.
- Records are not the same as lawsuits. A case transferred into the AFFF MDL appears twice, and in FY2025 8 PFAS maker records repeat a docket number already counted in the same district. The share without MDL transfers (20.3%) avoids most of this double counting.
- Many PFAS suits, including most personal injury claims and some water utility claims, are filed under other nature of suit codes and are not part of this category. The figures describe torts-to-land cases only, not all PFAS litigation.
- FY2026 figures cover October 2025 through June 2026 only. Courts can add or correct cases for recent months in later FJC releases, so these counts can still change; a comparison of the partial year with full years is not a trend.

Data files

- [Torts-to-land cases by PFAS maker named as first defendant](#) (CSV, 4 rows)
- [Torts-to-land cases against PFAS makers by federal district, FY2025](#) (CSV, 80 rows)
- [Federal torts-to-land cases and cases against PFAS makers by fiscal year](#) (CSV, 21 rows)
- [How FY2025 torts-to-land cases reached federal court, PFAS makers vs. other defendants](#) (CSV, 4 rows)

How to cite

Goldberg, L. (2026). PFAS Makers in Federal Torts-to-Land Lawsuits — Cases and Share by Fiscal Year, District and Company (FY2006–FY2025) [Data set]. Settlement Insight. <https://settlementinsight.com/research/pfas-share-property-contamination-lawsuits>

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