



Aircraft De-icing

In cold climates, ice can form on aircraft. If the ice is not removed from the aircraft before a flight, it can be detrimental to the aircraft. The chemicals used in the de-icing process are considered drinking water threats under the *Clean Water Act, 2006* because they can negatively affect the drinking water quality.

Aircraft De-icing as a Drinking Water Threat

The main chemical in aircraft de-icing products is ethylene glycol, which if consumed can cause several health issues. The risk associated with aircraft de-icing is the runoff. If the runoff is not properly managed, it can contaminate ground, and/or surface water sources.

Currently, there are no large airports within any of the vulnerable areas around municipal drinking water sources in the Quinte area. However, if an airport is proposed in one of these areas, it will be considered a significant drinking water threat. The Quinte Source Protection Plan has a policy in place to address this situation if it occurs in the future.



How are Aircraft De-icing Threats Being Addressed?

The Quinte Source Protection Committee involved municipal partners in the development of the Airplane De-icing Fluid Management Plan. The Plan ensures that the operators of the de-icing facilities are aware of the vulnerable areas and that they are aware of the proper emergency measures are in place in the event of a spill or contaminant breach.