

PFAS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is PFAS?

Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances (PFAS) is a group of man-made chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products since the 1940's because of their useful properties.

How are people exposed to these chemical compounds?

According to the EPA analysis, 20% of an individual's exposure comes from drinking water. The remaining 80% of exposure comes from clothing, fabrics, personal care products, paper packaging for food and other widely used materials and products.

How does PFAS get into drinking water?

PFAS can be found in air, soil and water. They can enter the environment from fire training sites, industrial sites, landfills, local waterways and even in groundwater sources. We did not put these chemicals in the ground or the drinking water, but we are charged with monitoring and lowering the levels of PFAS in our drinking water.

What does a Health Advisory for PFAS mean?

EPA's health advisories are currently non-enforceable and non-regulatory. However, they do provide technical guidance and provide information on contaminants that can cause possible health effects in humans such as altered immune and thyroid function, liver disease, kidney disease, adverse reproductive and development outcomes and cancer. Please see the CDC website for more health information.

What does this mean for the Hapeville drinking water?

While Hapeville's water currently meets all state and federal standards and requirements, the Georgia EPD encourages us to do three things. The first is to assess current levels of PFAS in our water with testing and monitoring. The second is to inform the public about any health advisories if the levels exceed the current health advisory levels (HAL's). Lastly, they encourage us to take proactive and precautionary steps to minimize the levels of PFAS in our water system. EPA's current reporting limit is 4 parts per trillion.