

PFAS IN INDIANA

WHAT ARE PFAS?

PFAS describes more than 12,000 chemicals manufactured since the 1940s, used in products to resist grease, water, oil, and heat. They are widely used in goods we use regularly. Known as “forever chemicals,” PFAS remain in the environment indefinitely and can be found in the blood of people and animals worldwide - meaning we have all been exposed.

WHERE CAN PFAS BE FOUND?



DRINKING WATER

Through manufacturing, fire fighting foam, landfills, and other processes, **PFAS has contaminated many drinking water sources in the US.**



FOOD AND PACKAGING

PFAS can **accumulate in our crops, fish, livestock, and milk.** It **can also be found in food packaging** like takeout containers, pizza boxes, wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, or any grease-resistant paper.



CONSUMER PRODUCTS

Many consumer products and facilities use PFAS in their manufacturing process or as a component of the product. This includes cosmetics, building materials, cleaners, electronics, textiles, paper, paints, sealants, non-stick products, stain- or water-repellents, and some medications or medical devices.



FIREFIGHTING FOAM

Traditional fire fighting foam contains PFAS as a main ingredient and is **used in training and emergency response events at airports, military training facilities, and firefighting training facilities.**



WASTE

Fertilizer containing **PFAS can seep into ground and surface water** from wastewater treatment plants and when used on agricultural lands. Landfills, disposal sites, and hazardous waste sites can also leak PFAS into soil and water.

HOW DO PFAS AFFECT ME?

PFAS exposure has been linked to various health problems including:

- **Cancer**
 - Increased risk of cancers including prostate, kidney, and testicular cancers
- **Weight**
 - Increased cholesterol
 - Increased risk of obesity
- **Immune system**
 - Reduced ability to fight infections
- **Reproductive issues**
 - Decreased fertility
 - Increased blood pressure in pregnant women
- **Developmental issues**
 - Low birth weight
 - Accelerated puberty
 - Bone abnormalities
 - Behavioral changes
- **Thyroid effects**
 - Thyroid disease and dysfunction
- **Liver effects**
 - Fatty liver
 - Disruption of liver function

ARE ANY PFAS SAFE?

- **No, there is no “safe” PFAS chemical**
 - More is known about some PFAS chemicals than others but no PFAS is safe for human contact
- The EPA just released significantly lower standards for PFAS in drinking water than previously existed
 - From **70** to **4** parts per trillion

PFAS IN INDIANA

WHAT IS INDIANA DOING TO PROTECT HOOSIERS?

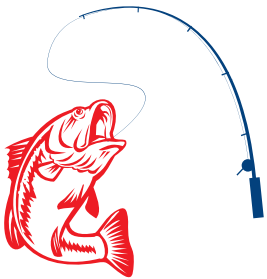
Some states have passed strict bans on PFAS chemicals and products that contain PFAS. So far, Indiana has been hesitant to pass such a ban for fear of disruption of manufacturing critical to the state's economy. However, Indiana has opened the door for common-sense PFAS legislation.

- Indiana has banned the use of PFAS in firefighting foam for training and testing, and banned the purchase of any firefighting gear without indication of PFAS content
- A pilot testing program has been established to test firefighters to measure PFAS exposure levels and track health effects
- PFAS have been defined in Indiana code, but only applies to firefighting agents
- The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has been testing public water utilities for PFAS levels since 2021
- Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita has initiated a lawsuit against PFAS manufacturers

Indiana lawmakers recognize the risks of PFAS but have focused protective measures primarily on firefighters.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MY FAMILY?

- Call your legislator and tell them:
 - You are concerned about the effects of PFAS on you and your family
 - To act on behalf of the health of all Hoosiers, not just manufacturers
 - To expand the definition of PFAS to include all uses, not just in firefighting



DO YOU LIKE TO FISH?

Be aware that PFAS have been found in fish nationwide, including in Indiana waters.

When fishing, use the Indiana Department of Health's Fish Consumption Guidelines to make sure you are not eating fish contaminated with PFAS.

<https://www.in.gov/health/eph/fish-consumption-advisory/>

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