Professor Peaslee reply to PFAS Study Question 6.24.2018

YOUR TURNOUT GEAR AND PFOA · SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2018 20 Reads

Hi Diane,

Yes, it means the drinking water limits are really heading low in a hurry as people publish more studies...but the regulatory agencies will take a while to follow the recommendations....but Europe, Australia and the US appear to be heading in this direction.

Yes, is means that the methanol wipe of the turnout gear really is ~14,000 times higher than the drinking water limits...part of that will be because the general population drinks a lot of water every day and they want the total exposure to be low and ingestion (from drinking) is a direct path into the body where these things accumulate. The level is that low because it is based on how quickly these things excrete from the human body, and they don't come out fast.

Under normal wear and tear, we are not sure how much PFAS comes off turnout gear...we are going to try to measure that soon...but if it made its way into drinking water at anywhere near the rate we saw with a methanol wipe, that would contaminate lots of drinking water. This has real implications for end-of-life disposal of the turn out gear...but because we don't know whether these chemicals have any dermal sorption capabilty, we don't know whether it poses a risk to the wearer simply by skin contact. Even a little dermal absorption could be a bad thing...but we just don't know yet.

Hope this answers some questions...but I am sure it will raise more ☺