



Security Water District

Important Information about Your Drinking Water

New Environmental Protection Agency Health Advisory and Watering Restrictions In Place this Summer

As we shared with our customers earlier this year, Security Water learned that levels of Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs), man made chemicals that do not occur naturally in the environment, were detected in groundwater wells we use to supply about 50 percent of our drinking water. These compounds are found in a variety of products, such as firefighting foams, coating additives, surface protection products for carpets and clothing, and food packaging. Because these chemicals have been commonly used in a wide variety of consumer products, most people have been exposed to them, primarily through food.

On May 19, 2016, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it lowered the health advisory levels for both PFOS and PFOA to 70 parts per trillion gallons of water. In addition, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) included PFHpA into the 70 parts per trillion combined level. Health advisories provide information on contaminants that may cause human health effects and are known or anticipated to occur in drinking water.

Public health and safety is the number one priority of the Security Water District. Following are questions and answers about the health advisory and what it means to our customers.

Is our water affected by the new advisory?

Based on the revised EPA and CDPHE health advisory, all 25 of Security Water's groundwater wells would now exceed the new advisory level. Therefore, to protect our water supply, we are curtailing the use of a number of our groundwater wells as a source of our water supply until a means of treatment can be implemented. Security Water is now relying upon surface water from Pueblo Reservoir, which is not affected, to supply most of our community's water needs. By using mostly surface water, we will be able to reduce the public's exposure to water that exceeds the health advisory level for PFASs. Our water still meets all state and federal regulations for drinking water. In order to have enough water to supply all our customers, we must continue using some groundwater wells, especially during the hot summer months when water usage is higher.

Should we drink the water?

Zone 1 within our water system relies more heavily on groundwater than other zones, therefore, at times that zone may exceed the health advisory level. We anticipate few if any impacts to Zones 2 and 3. Please see the map for the zone that supplies your water.

As a precaution, if you live in Zone 1, you may want to consider other sources of water or treating the water in the home. This especially is important for women who are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding as well as bottle-fed infants. Alternate sources of water include bottled water or water that is treated under the sink by a reverse osmosis system. Parents of formula-fed infants may consider using formula that does not require adding water. Parents of formula-fed infants may consider using formula that does not require adding water. The water from your tap water is considered safe for bathing, showering, brushing teeth, washing hands, watering yards, washing dishes, cleaning, and laundry. If you or your family are concerned about your health or have symptoms you think may be caused by PFASs exposure, contact your health care provider.

What are the health risks?

Just because someone is exposed to a contaminant that exceeds a health advisory level does not mean they will have adverse effects. Health advisory levels are calculated to offer a margin of protection against adverse health effects to the most sensitive populations: fetuses and breastfed infants. The EPA health advisory levels are calculated based on the drinking water intake of lactating women, who drink more water than other people and can pass these chemicals to nursing infants through breastmilk.

Recent information has shown a stronger link between exposure to PFOA and PFOS (which are two of the PFASs) and developmental effects including low birth weight and accelerated puberty. Low birth weight can contribute to many long-term health and behavioral risks, including diabetes and obesity. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment analyzed historical data in Security-Widefield and found no significant difference regarding low birth weight infants as compared to the rest of El Paso County.

Some human studies show that increased exposure to PFOA and PFOS might increase the risk for certain health problems such as changes in blood cholesterol, liver enzymes, and uric acid levels, which may be linked with an elevated risk of heart disease, liver disease or high blood pressure. Other studies show a possible link – but not a cause-and-effect relationship – between levels of PFOA and PFOS in the blood and thyroid disease, some immune system effects, kidney cancer and testicular cancer.

What is Security Water doing to address the contaminants?

For now, we will rely upon our surface water to supply most of our water since it is not affected by PFASs. For the long-term we will be exploring treatment options to address the contaminants. Unfortunately many of these treatment options would require the construction of costly water treatment plants and expensive treatment processes. In every decision we make, we will evaluate cost impact to customers.

For more information on PFOAs and the health advisory, visit:

Security Water: www.securitywsd.com

Security Water: 719-392-3475

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment: www.colorado.gov/cdphe/pfcs

EPA: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>

El Paso County: <http://www.elpasocountyhealth.org/services/perfluorinated-compounds-pfcs-fountain-widefield-security>



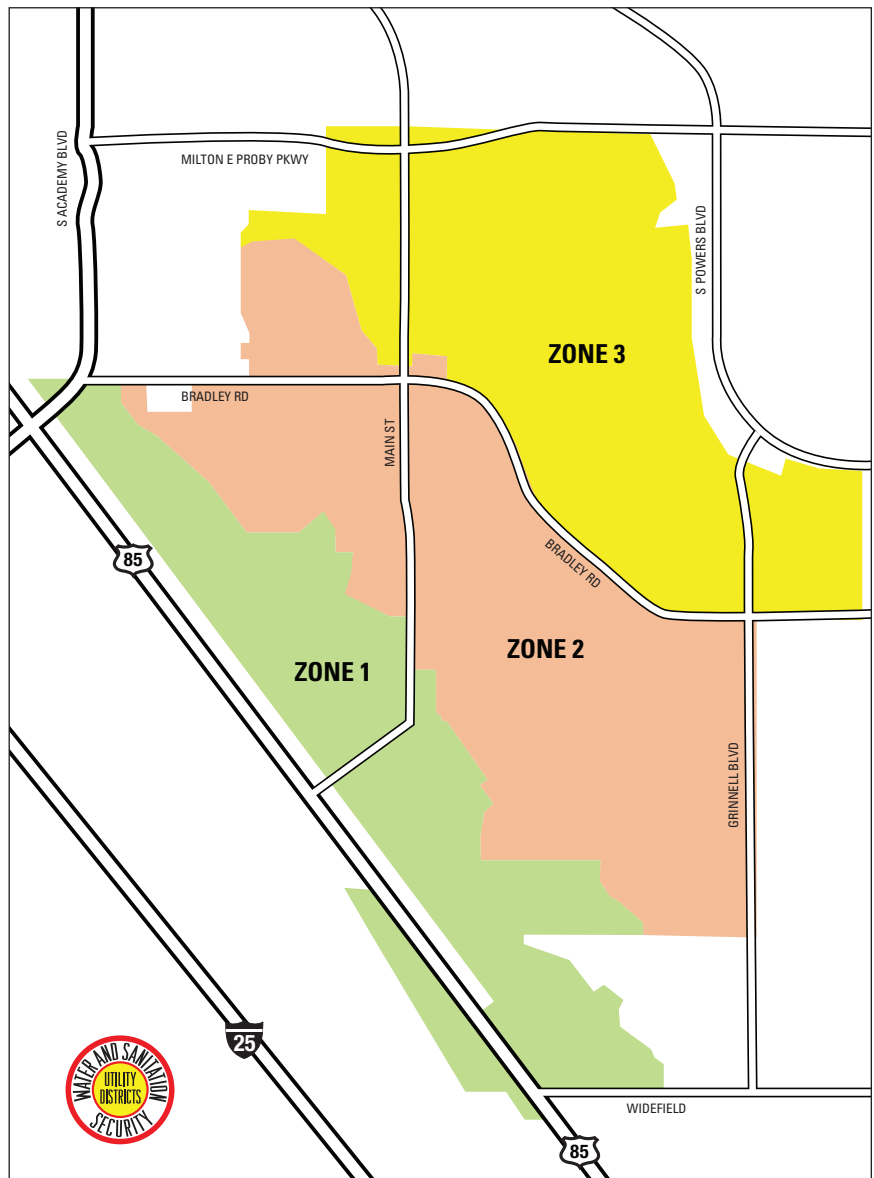
The following are results from samples taken from multiple entry points and selected locations throughout the Security Water District system between April 6th and 11th, 2016:

Zone 1: between 135 and 302 parts per trillion combined PFOS/PFOA/PFHpA

Zone 2: between non-detect and 9 parts per trillion combined PFOS/PFOA/PFHpA

Zone 3: between 27 and 33 parts per trillion combined PFOS/PFOA/PFHpA

All of these sample results were below the EPA health advisory that was in effect at the time of the sampling. In addition, these samples were taken before the Southern Delivery System came online, before the District shut down additional wells, and before the District implemented voluntary watering restrictions, which are described below. We believe that all of these actions will further reduce the public's exposure to PFASs in accordance with the new EPA and CDPHE health advisory.



For more information visit: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/PFCs/resources>

PLEASE READ THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT OUTDOOR WATERING RESTRICTIONS FROM JUNE 1, 2016 to OCTOBER 1, 2016

In order to ensure we minimize our use of groundwater while meeting our customers' needs during the summer months, we will be asking for our customers to follow voluntary watering restrictions we will put in place starting June 1, 2016.

Unlike most communities in Colorado, Security Water has never instituted watering restrictions. To protect our water quality, we are asking all residential and business customers to voluntarily follow these steps to conserve water during the summer months, when outdoor irrigation uses a significant amount of our potable water. While these rules are voluntary, it will be critical that all customers cooperate to ensure we have adequate water to meet our high demand water months.

We ask our customers first and foremost to use only the water they need. It is important to use water wisely both inside and outside the home.

From June 1 through October 1, 2016, we are asking all customers to:

- **Water no more than three times per week.** Homes/businesses with addresses ending in even numbers may water on Monday, Wednesday and Saturdays. Homes/businesses with addresses ending in odd numbers may water on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. **We are asking all customers to avoid watering on Fridays.**
- Water during the cooler times of the day – **do not water your lawn between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.** Avoid over-water.
- Do not allow water to pool in gutters, streets and alleys.
- Do not waste water by letting it spray on concrete and asphalt.
- Repair leaking sprinkler systems immediately.
- Do not irrigate while it is raining or during high winds.
- Use a hose nozzle to shut-off valve when washing your car or use a commercial car wash.

There are many easy ways to conserve water both indoors and outdoors. For simple tips, visit www.LoveColoradoWater.org.