

City of Fall River, Department of Community Utilities, Water Division
PUBLIC NOTICE – JANUARY 2014
IMPORTANT INFORMATION
ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The City of Fall River's water system has recently exceeded an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) drinking water standard average. Although this is not an emergency, you have a right to know what has happened, what you should do and what is being done to correct the situation.

Fall River's drinking water is disinfected with chlorine to kill bacteria. In addition to testing for bacteria in the distribution system, the water is also tested quarterly, at various sites throughout the distribution system for the presence of byproducts related to the disinfection process. The EPA sets locational standards and running averages for the maximum levels of disinfection byproducts (DBPs) in drinking water. This includes substances known as and collectively called total trihalomethanes or TTHMs.

The EPA Stage 2 DBP Rule, which went into effect in 2012, requires water systems to meet "locational" running annual averages (LRAA) for total TTHMs at each of the eight (8) DEP/EPA approved sampling locations in Fall River. Historically since the early 1990s, Fall River has had to report a combined running annual average (RAA) of all samples collected in the distribution system and continuously met the EPA requirements. With the more stringent Stage 2 DBP Rule requirements, Fall River has increased a DEP mandated flushing program to help meet these requirements and has changed some internal treatment processes in an attempt to ensure compliance with the new locational averaging requirements in the future.

The compliance limits for TTHMs are calculated by averaging the results at each location. These **averaged** results show that our system marginally exceeded the maximum contaminant level for TTHMs at one (1) location. The EPA standard for TTHMs is 80 parts per billion (ppb). The **average** value for the one location, 631 Airport Road, was 84 ppb. The **actual** measured value for the 2013 fourth quarter at 631 Airport Road was 68.5 ppb and well below the 80.0 ppb limit.

What does this mean?

This means that this is **NOT** an emergency, nor is there any imminent risk. If it had been an emergency situation, you would have been notified immediately through local media outlets. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many, many years (70 years or more) may experience problems with their livers, kidneys or central nervous system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. There are no known short term acute impacts.

What should I do?

You **DO NOT** need to use an alternate water supply, such as bottled water. However, if you have specific health concerns, please consult your doctor.

What happened? What is being done?

TTHMs form when free chlorine reacts with naturally occurring organic matter in water. Lowering TTHM levels may be achieved by removing organic matter, as is now done via the treatment processes and by flushing or otherwise adding processes to remove TTHMs from the water, both of which Fall River currently does.

The risk of health impacts from TTHMs is much lower than the risk of illness from drinking water that has not been disinfected. Fall River is currently continuing flushing the system and working with the DEP and our consultant on a longer term corrective action plan that will ensure continued compliance with the TTHM standards.

How do I find out more information?

For more information, please contact Ted Kaegael Jr. (Director of Treatment & Resources) @ 508-324-2725 or Terry Sullivan (Administrator of Community Utilities) @ 508-324-2320 with related questions.

This public notice is sent to you by the City of Fall River
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Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

INDICAÇÃO IMPORTANTE NA DISPONIBILIDADE DESTES RELATÓRIO

Este relatório contém informação muito importante sobre sua água potável. Por favor traduza-o ou fale com alguém que-lhe compreende. As cópias deste relatório em Português podem ser obtidas no escritório do Departamento de Água no terceiro andar em Government Center, ou chamando 508-324-2330.