

PUBLIC NOTICE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

NOTÍCIA PÚBLICA
INFORMAÇÕES IMPORTANTES SOBRE SUA ÁGUA POTÁVEL
Contate 508-580-7135 para obter uma cópia traduzida deste aviso ou para solicitar assistência no idioma apropriado

The City of Brockton's (City) water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what the City is doing to correct this situation.

The City's drinking water is disinfected with chlorine. In addition to weekly testing for any bacteria in the distribution system, the water is also tested quarterly, at various sites in the distribution system, for the presence of byproducts related to the disinfection process. The EPA sets standards for the maximum levels of both disinfectants and disinfection byproducts (DBP's) in drinking water. This includes substances known as trihalomethanes, collectively called total trihalomethanes, or TTHMs.

The City routinely monitors for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results from the second quarter of 2018 show that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for TTHM. The standard for TTHM is 80.0 ppb MCL. It is determined by averaging all the samples collected at each sampling location for the past 12 months. For the second quarter of 2018, the average level of TTHM in the sampling station on North Main Street, adjacent to Fire Station No. 3, was 82.0 ppb.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours. TTHM are four volatile organic chemicals which form when disinfectants react with natural organic matter in the water. People who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.

If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.

What is being done?

The City is working to minimize the formation of TTHM while maintaining an adequate level of disinfectant. The City is taking additional steps to change disinfectant type/levels and flushing the area to ensure compliance with the TTHM standards.

For more information, please contact Lawrence Rowley, Commissioner of Public Works, at 508-580-7135 or dpw@cobma.us.

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.

This notice is being sent to you by the City of Brockton

PWS ID#: 4044000

Date distributed: July 11, 2018

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The City of Brockton's (City) water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what the City did to correct this situation.

The City routinely monitors your water for turbidity (cloudiness) to confirm the water supply is effectively being filtered. On June 12, 2018, a single turbidity reading exceeded the maximum contaminant limit (MCL) of 0.30 nephelometric turbidity unit (NTU). While replacing a carbon filter, carbon fines passed through a valve and entered the finished water tank, resulting in a turbidity spike.

What does this mean?

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. These symptoms are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

What should I do?

You do not need to boil your water or take other actions. The City does not know of any contamination, and none of our testing has shown disease-causing organisms in the drinking water.

People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

What was done?

On June 12, 2018, the problem was identified, corrected and the Brockton Water Filtration Plant turbidity readings returned to normal by the next four-hour reading.

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