

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
TRIHALOMETHANE (TTHM) MCL
HALOACETIC ACID 5 (HAA5) MCL

AT Town of Lake Hamilton PWS ID 6530977

Our 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 we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results from Q3 2019 show that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for TTHM'S & HAA5's. The standard for TTHM is .080 mg/l (MCL). It is determined by averaging all the samples collected at each sampling location for the past 12 months. The level of TTHM averaged at location L1 and L2 of our system from up to 3rd Quarter 2019 was 0.1019mg/L and .0850 respectively. The standard for HAA5 is .060 mg/l (MCL). It is determined by averaging all the samples collected at each sampling location for the past 12 months. The level of HAA5 averaged at location L1 of our system from up to 3rd Quarter 2019 was 0.0618 mg/L.

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 health care providers about drinking this water.

What does this mean?

HAA5's are five Haloacetic acid compounds which form when disinfectants react with natural organic matter in the water.

Trihalomethanes are a group of chemicals that can form when organic matter in water is treated with halogen disinfectants such as chlorine. The most common of these chemicals is trichloromethane (also called chloroform), but others, such as dibromochloromethane, bromodichloromethane, or bromoform can also be found. The sum of these four chemicals is referred to as total trihalomethanes (TTHMs).

How might exposure to TTHMs and HAA5's in water occur?

TTHMs and HAA5's are present at low levels in most chlorinated water supplies. Chlorine is added to these drinking water supplies to control microbes such as E. coli or Salmonella that can cause serious illness.

How can TTHMs affect my health?

Depending on risk factors stated below, health effects from drinking high levels of TTHMs can include: liver, kidney, or central nervous system damage. Drinking water every day with concentrations of TTHMs at or below the standard for your entire lifetime is unlikely to cause illness. In addition, any risk from disinfection byproducts is much lower than the risk of illness from drinking water that has not been disinfected. *People who drink water containing Haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.*

How likely are TTHMs to cause cancer?

EPA has set standards for TTHMs in water because there is a slight possibility of an increased risk of bladder or colorectal cancer over a lifetime of drinking water with TTHMs above 80 parts per billion (ppb). The slight risk occurs after decades of drinking water with high levels of TTHMs. This risk is small compared to the risk of potentially deadly infectious diseases in drinking water that is not disinfected. http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/drinking-water/_documents/thms-fs-2017.pdf

What is being done?

We have hired the services and assistance from the Florida Rural Water Department to assist us in forming a course of action to incorporate alternative treatment methods to lower our HAA5's and TTHM's and our actively involved in a pilot program. We have concluded the first phase of our pilot program and have begun the second phase. We anticipate resolving the problem within the next 3 months we've had great success in lowering the formation of TTHM's and HAA5's at the water treatment plant, it is taking longer than anticipated to reduce them in the distribution system, but we expect a significant reduction at the next sample date.

For more information, please contact The Town of Lake Hamilton at 863-439-1910

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 business). 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 Town of Lake Hamilton. State Water System ID # 6530977

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