

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

LEVELS OF TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES (TTHM) AND HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5) ABOVE DRINKING WATER STANDARDS FOR KIRKLIN WATER

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. The results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets EPA's health standards. The results that we received for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) for the 10/1/2020 to 12/31/2020 monitoring period show that our system currently exceeds the standard(s), or Maximum Contaminant Level(s) (MCL). The MCL for Total Trihalomethanes is 80 ug/L and the MCL for Haloacetic Acids is 60 ug/L. As of 12/31/2020, our locational running annual average for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) is 112.9 and 87.9, and 78.3 ug/L.

What should I do?

You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

What does this mean?

Some people who drink 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. Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

What Happened? What is being done? (Explain below the reason, corrective action, and when the system expects to be or was back in compliance.)

The Town of Kirklin exceeded the limits for TTHM/HAA5 for the 4th quarter of 2021 (Oct. - Dec.) The chlorine feed has been lowered at the treatment plant to lower the chlorine by-products of TTHM/HAA5. Extra testing is being done in Feb. to evaluate what has been done. The system will be flushed again in March before testing. We anticipate resolving the problem within the next couple of months.

For more information, please contact Billy L. Walker at 765-209-2655 or Kirklin5251@sbcglobal.net.
estimated time frame
name of contact
phone number E-mailing address

Please share this information with all 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 Town of Kirklin PWSID# IN5212004
system name PWSID

Please visit our web-site for more information.
www.KirklinIndiana.org

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CONSUMERS: TTHM IN DRINKING WATER

Information about Total Trihalomethanes in Drinking Water

What does this mean?

This is NOT an emergency. *If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours.*

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do. You *do not* need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. There are no alternative water sources needed.

What are TTHM?

TTHMs are a group of chemicals known as disinfection byproducts. They form when chlorine used for disinfection reacts with naturally occurring organic material that is found in source water. Levels of TTHMs generally increase in the summer months due to the warmer temperatures or by changing amounts of disinfection chemicals that are added to the water. Water systems often can experience temporary increases in TTHMs due to short-term increases in chlorine disinfection. Chlorine disinfection increases can occur when there is a water main break, when water systems are under repair, changes in source water quality, or when there is a potential microbial (example: bacteria) problem or threat.

All water systems that use chlorine to disinfect the water are required by federal and state law to sample for TTHM on a regular basis (quarterly, or once every three months).

What are HAA5s?

Haloacetic acids (HAA5s) are a group of disinfection byproducts that also form when chlorine compounds that are used to disinfect water react with other naturally-occurring chemicals in the water. There are five significant HAAs potentially found in disinfected drinking water and their combined concentration is referred to as total HAA5.

Can I drink the water?

Yes, your water is safe to drink and can be used as you have in the past such as for cooking, bathing and cleaning.

Why is chlorine added to a water system?

Chlorine is used to disinfect drinking water. Disinfection of water supplies is necessary to prevent illness from waterborne disease causing bacteria. The practice of disinfection has nearly eliminated most acute waterborne diseases in the United States such as

dysentery, typhoid fever and cholera. These microbial diseases would otherwise be a major concern for children and other populations such as the elderly, immune compromised and pregnant woman because of their greater vulnerabilities.

Disinfection of the water first kills any microorganisms that it may contain. Then, a small amount of disinfectant is needed in the water as it travels through the pipes in the distribution system. This prevents regrowth of microorganisms, or contamination from an outside source, such as during a water main break.

What is an “MCL”?

Drinking water standards are called maximum contaminant level (MCLs). MCLs are set to limit risks to people from chemicals in the drinking water.

What are the health risks associated with using water containing TTHM?

The MCL for TTHM is based on potential cancer risks *following a lifetime of drinking the water*. TTHM are considered to be possibly carcinogenic to humans by the USEPA because of evidence of carcinogenicity in experimental laboratory animals and limited evidence in people. More research is being conducted to better understand the potential risks from using water containing TTHM.

Based on available information, *long term* consumption for many years of TTHM in drinking water above the MCL *may* increase the risk of certain types of cancer. Consumption of water with TTHM levels somewhat above the MCL for limited durations, for example, while corrective actions are being taken to lower the levels, is not likely to significantly increase the risks of adverse health effects for most people.

What if I have health concerns?

If you have a health concern, please consult your physician for the best course of action for you.

What is the Town of Kirklin doing to improve the water quality?

The Town of Kirklin has been working closely with IDEM, Water Solutions Unlimited and consulting with GRW Engineering to remedy the issue of TTHM/HAA5 exceedances. The chlorine feed system has been lowered to feed less therefore producing less TTHM/HAA5 byproducts. Hydrant flushing is increasing, weather-permitted, around town, to move water through and lower the chlorine contact time in the system. We are also testing again this month to see the progress of what we are doing. We will also be doing a full-town hydrant flushing in March. Rest assured, the Town of Kirklin is doing everything possible to give the public the best water quality we can.

Who should I contact if I have any questions?

For more information, please contact Billy Walker, Town Superintendent, at 765-209-2655 or by contacting him by e-mail at kirklin5251@sbcglobal.net.