

2019 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
 For
 Hillcrest Water District
 Leicester, Massachusetts
 MASSDEP PWSID # 2151002

This report is a snapshot of drinking water quality that we provided last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to state and federal standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

I. PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION

Address: P.O. Box 317 Leicester, MA 01524
 Contact Person: Joseph H. Wood, Superintendent
 Telephone #: (508) 892-7585 Fax #: (508) 892-1812
 Internet Address: <http://www.lwsd.net/hwd/water.htm>

Water System Improvements

Our water system is routinely inspected by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). MassDEP inspects our system for its technical, financial, and managerial capacity to provide safe drinking water to you. To ensure that we provide the highest quality of water available, your water system is operated by Massachusetts Licensed operators who oversee routine operations of our system. As part of our ongoing commitment to you, last year we made the following improvements to the system. In 2018, the District completed the design of a new water tank to be located next to the existing tank just off Lehigh Road. In 2019 the District applied for USDA funding and a 40-year low interest loan was approved for the project. The District then received priced proposals for construction of the new tank in the spring of 2019 and selected a contractor. The tank was constructed throughout the year and it is anticipated that the new tank will be filled and fully operational by spring 2020.

Opportunities for Public Participation

If you would like to participate in discussions regarding your water quality, you may attend the following meetings or educational events: monthly Commissioner meetings usually held on the second Monday of the month and our Annual Meeting held every second Tuesday in May on May 12, 2019.

2. YOUR DRINKING WATER SOURCE

Where Does My Drinking Water Come From?

Your water is provided by the following sources listed below:

Source Name	MassDEP Source ID#	Source Type	Location of Source
Well #1	2151002-01G	Groundwater	Lehigh Road

Is My Water Treated?

- We add a solution of sodium hypochlorite as a disinfectant to protect you against microbial contaminants.
- We filter the water to remove iron and manganese
- We filter the water to remove arsenic.
- We filter the water to remove uranium and other naturally occurring radionuclides.

Our water system makes every effort to provide you with safe and pure drinking water. To improve the quality of the water delivered to you, we treat it to remove contaminants.

The water quality of our system is constantly monitored by the District and MassDEP to determine the effectiveness of existing water treatment and to determine if any additional treatment is required.

How Are These Sources Protected?

MassDEP has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the water supply source(s) serving this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies.

What is My System’s Ranking?

A susceptibility ranking of Moderate was assigned to this system using the information collected during the assessment by MassDEP.

Where Can I See The SWAP Report?

The complete SWAP report is available at Hillcrest Water District offices, 124 Pine Street, Leicester, MA 01524 and online at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/sourcewa.htm#reports> . For more information, call Joseph Wood at (508) 892-7585

What Can Be Done To Improve Protection?

Residents can help protect sources by:

- Practicing good septic system maintenance
- Supporting water supply protection initiatives at the next town/annual meeting
- Taking hazardous household chemicals to hazardous materials collection days
- Contacting the water department or Board of Health to volunteer for monitoring or education outreach to schools
- Limiting pesticide and fertilizer use, etc.

3. SUBSTANCES FOUND IN TAP WATER

Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals, and in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants -such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants -such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.

Pesticides and herbicides -which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants -including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants -which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and some infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on lowering the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Hillcrest Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

4. IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) –The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) -- The highest level of a disinfectant (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) -- The level of a drinking water disinfectant (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Treatment Technique (TT) – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Action Level (AL) – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

90th Percentile – Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
ppt = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
pCi/l = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units
ND = Not Detected
N/A = Not Applicable
mrem/year = millirem per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) – These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG) – This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which, adverse health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.

5. WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS

What Does This Data Represent?

The water quality information presented in the table(s) is from the most recent round of testing done in accordance with the regulations. All data shown was collected during the last calendar year unless otherwise noted in the table(s)

	Date(s) Collected	90 TH percentile	Action Level	MCLG	# of sites sampled	# of sites above Action Level	Possible Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	9/12/18	.0033	15	0	11	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	9/12/18	0.309	1.3	1.3	11	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

"If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Hillcrest Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>."

	Highest # Positive in a month	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source of Contamination
Total Coliform	0	1	0	N	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or <i>E.coli</i>	0	*	0	N	Human and animal fecal waste

* Compliance with the Fecal Coliform/E.coli MCL is determined upon additional repeat testing.

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result or Highest Running Average Detected	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Antimony (ppb)	6/22/2017	ND		6	6		Discharge from fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder
Arsenic (ppb)	2/28/2019 5/28/2019 9/05/2019 12/12/2019	ND	ND	10	-----		Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Asbestos (MFL)	5/10/2011	ND		7	7		Decay of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	6/22/2017	ND		2	2		Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result or Highest Running Average Detected	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Beryllium (ppb)	6/22/2017	ND		4	4		Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries; erosion of natural deposits
Cadmium (ppb)	6/22/2017	ND		5	5		Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints
Chromium (ppb)	6/22/2017	ND		100	100		Discharge from pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (ppb)	6/22/2017	ND		200	200		Discharge from metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Fluoride (ppm)	6/22/2017	ND		4	4		Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Mercury (ppb)	6/22/2017	ND		2	2		Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland
Nitrate (ppm)	5/28/2019	ND		10	10		Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (ppm)	6/13/2018	ND		1	1		Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Perchlorate	9/05/2019	ND		2	N/A		Rocket propellants, fireworks, munitions, flares, blasting agents
Selenium (ppb)	6/22/2017	ND		50	50		Discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
Thallium (ppb)	6/22/2017	ND		2	0.5		Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories
Volatile Organic Contaminants							
Benzene (ppb)	5/28/2019	ND		5	0		Discharge from factories; leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills
Carbon tetrachloride (ppb)	5/28/2019	ND		5	0		Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities
Chlorobenzene (ppb)	4/9/2014	ND		100	100		Discharge from and agricultural chemical factories
o-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	5/28/2019	ND		600	600		Discharge from industrial chemical factories
p-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	5/28/2019	ND		5	5		Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,2-Dichloroethane (ppb)	5/28/2019	ND		5	0		Discharge from industrial chemical factories

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result or Highest Running Average Detected	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
1,1-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	5/28/2019	ND		7	7		Discharge from industrial chemical factories
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	5/28/2019	ND		70	70		Breakdown product of trichloroethylene and tetrachloroethylene
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	5/28/2019	ND		100	100		Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Dichloromethane (ppb)	5/28/2019	ND		5	0		Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories
1,2-Dichloropropane (ppb)	5/28/2019	ND		5	0		Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Ethylbenzene (ppb)	5/28/2019	ND		700	700		Leaks and spills from gasoline and petroleum storage tanks
MTBE - Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (ppb)	5/28/2019	ND		ORS GL 70	-		Fuel additive; leaks and spills from gasoline storage tanks
Styrene (ppb)	5/28/2019	ND		100	100		Discharge from rubber and plastic factories; leaching from landfills
Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) (ppb)	5/28/2019	ND		5	0		Discharge from factories and dry cleaners; residual of vinyl-lined water mains
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene (ppb)	5/28/2019	ND		70	70		Discharge from textile-finishing factories
1,1,1-Trichloroethane (ppb)	5/28/2019	ND		200	200		Discharge from use in septic system cleaners
1,1,2-Trichloroethane (ppb)	5/28/2019	ND		5	3		Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Trichloroethylene (TCE) (ppb)	5/28/2019	ND		5	0		Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Toluene (ppm)	5/28/2019	ND		1	1		Leaks and spills from gasoline and petroleum storage tanks; discharge from petroleum factories
Vinyl Chloride (ppb)	5/28/2019	ND		2	0		Leaching from PVC piping; discharge from plastics factories
Xylenes (ppm)	5/28/2019	ND		10	10		Leaks and spills from gasoline and petroleum storage tanks; discharge from petroleum factories; discharge from chemical factories
Radioactive Contaminants							
Gross Alpha (pCi/l) (minus uranium)	2/28/2019 9/05/2019	1.46	.952- 1.46	15	0		Erosion of natural deposits
GrossBeta/photon emmitters (pCi/L) ▲	N/A			50	0		Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Radium 226 & 228 (pCi/L) (combined values)	2/28/2019	1.382		5	0		Erosion of natural deposits

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result or Highest Running Average Detected	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Uranium (ppb)	2/28/2019 5/28/2019 9/05/2019 12/12/2019	ND	ND	30	0		Erosion of natural deposits
Synthetic Organic Contaminants							
2,4-D (ppb)	6/13/2018	ND		70	70		Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
2,4,5-TP (Silvex) (ppb)	6/13/2018	ND		50	50		Residue of banned herbicide
Acrylamide	5/3/2012	ND		TT=5 %	0		Added to water during sewage/wastewater treatment
Alachlor (ppb)	6/13/2018	ND		2	0		Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Atrazine (ppb)	6/13/2018	ND		3	3		Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Benzo(a)pyrene (ppt)	6/13/2018	ND		200	0		Leaching from linings of water storage tanks and distribution lines
Carbofuran (ppb)	6/13/2018	ND		40	40		Leaching of soil fumigant used on rice and alfalfa
Chlordane (ppb)	6/13/2018	ND		2	0		Residue of banned termiticide
Dalapon (ppb)	6/13/2018	ND		200	200		Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way
Di (2-ethylhexyl) adipate (ppb)	6/13/2018	ND		400	400		Discharge from chemical factories
Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (ppb)	6/13/2018	ND		6	0		Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
Dibromochloropropane (DBCP) (ppt)	6/13/2018	ND		200	0		Runoff/leaching from soil fumigant used on soybeans, cotton, and orchards
Dinoseb (ppb)	6/13/2018	ND		7	7		Runoff from herbicide used on soybeans and vegetables
Endrin (ppb)	6/13/2018	ND		2	2		Residue of banned insecticide
Epichlorohydrin	5/3/2012	ND		TT=1 %	0		Discharge from industrial chemical factories; an impurity of some water treatment chemicals
Ethylene dibromide (EDB) (ppt)	6/13/2018	ND		20	0		Residue of leaded gasoline or runoff from soil fumigant used on tobacco or strawberries
Heptachlor (ppt)	6/13/2018	ND		400	0		Residue of banned pesticide
Heptachlor epoxide (ppt)	6/13/2018	ND		200	0		Breakdown of heptachlor
Hexachlorobenzene (ppb)	6/13/2018	ND		1	0		Discharge from metal refineries and agricultural chemical factories
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene (ppb)	6/13/2018	ND		50	50		Discharge from chemical factories
Lindane (ppt)	6/13/2018	ND		200	200		Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on cattle, lumber, gardens

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result or Highest Running Average Detected	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Methoxychlor (ppb)	6/13/2018	ND		40	40		Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on fruits, vegetables, alfalfa, livestock
Oxamyl (Vydate) (ppb)	6/13/2018	ND		200	200		Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on apples, potatoes and tomatoes
Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) (ppt)	6/13/2018	ND		500	0		Runoff from landfills; discharge of waste chemicals; residue of banned use in electrical transformers
Pentachlorophenol (ppb)	6/13/2018	ND		1	0		Discharge from wood preserving factories
Picloram (ppb)	6/13/2018	ND		500	500		Herbicide runoff
Simazine (ppb)	6/13/2018	ND		4	4		Herbicide runoff
Toxaphene (ppb)	6/13/2018	ND		3	0		Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on cotton and cattle
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	2/12/2019 5/14/2019 8/13/2019 11/12/2019	6.4	5.0-6.4	80	----		Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	2/12/2019 5/14/2019 8/13/2019 11/12/2019	2.19	ND-2.19	60	----		Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm) (free, total or combined)	Monthly	.56	.36-.56	4	4		Water additive used to control microbes

■ Fluoride also has a secondary contaminant level (SMCL) of 2 ppm.

▲ The MCL for beta particles is 4 mrem/year. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

Unregulated contaminants are those for which there are no established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist regulatory agencies in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Unregulated and Secondary Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Result or Range Detected	Average Detected	SMCL	ORSG	Possible Source
Inorganic Contaminants						
Sodium (ppm)	6/22/2017	19.3		----	20	Natural sources; runoff from use as salt on roadways; by-product of treatment process
Nickel (ppm)	6/22/2017	.0040		----	0.1	Discharge from industrial processes
Sulfate (ppm)	12/18/2018	ND		250	----	Natural sources

Unregulated and Secondary Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Result or Range Detected	Average Detected	SMCL	ORSG	Possible Source
Organic Contaminants						
MTBE - Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (ppb)	5/28/2019	ND		20-40	70	Fuel additive; leaks and spills from gasoline storage tanks
Other Organic Contaminants - When detected at treatment plant as VOC residuals, not TTHM compliance						
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	5/28/2019	1.13		---	---	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromoform (ppb)	5/28/2019	1.70		---	---	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chloroform (ppb)	5/28/2019	0.57		---	---	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dibromodichloromethane (ppb)		N/A		---	---	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Secondary Contaminants						
Iron (ppb)	5/28/2019	ND		300	---	Naturally occurring, corrosion of cast iron pipes
Manganese (ppb)	5/28/2019	ND		50*	---	Erosion of natural deposits
Aluminum (ppb)	12/18/2018	ND		200	---	Byproduct of treatment process
Chloride (ppm)	12/18/2018	102		250	---	Runoff from road de-icing, use of inorganic fertilizers, landfill leachates, septic tank effluents, animal feeds, industrial effluents, irrigation drainage, and seawater intrusion in coastal areas
Color (C.U.)	12/18/2018	0		15	---	Naturally occurring organic material
Copper (ppm)	12/18/2018	.0028		1	---	Naturally occurring organic material
Odor (T.O.N.)	12/18/2018	1		3 TON	---	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives ⁰
PH	12/18/2018	7.65		6.5-8.5	---	-----
Silver (ppb)	12/18/2018	ND		100	---	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) (ppm)	12/18/2018	309		500	---	Erosion of natural deposits.
Zinc (ppm)	12/18/2018	0.0184		5	---	Erosion of natural deposits, leaching from plumbing materials

* The EPA has established a lifetime health advisory (HA) value of 300 ppb for manganese to protect against concerns of potential neurological effects, and a one-day and 10-day HA of 1000 ppb for acute exposure.

6. COMPLIANCE WITH DRINKING WATER REGS

Does My Drinking Water Meet Current Health Standards?

We are committed to providing you with the best water quality available. Contaminants that were tested last year met all applicable health standards regulated by the state and federal government.

Our Operators constantly monitor the water system along with the MassDEP. We record the quantity of treatment chemicals added at the water treatment plant and their affect on finished water quality. Sodium Hypochlorite was added to the finished water from the water treatment plant to maintain system wide chlorine residuals and inhibit bacterial growth in the drinking water.

Samples were collected and analyzed in accordance with the MassDEP Drinking Water Program Sampling Program for the Hillcrest Water District. There were no water quality violations for 2019.

Health Effects Statements

Total Coliform: Coliform are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present in drinking water. If coliform bacteria are found in more test samples than allowed by state and federal standards, it is a warning of potential bacteria problems in the WTP finished water. No coliform bacteria were detected in a water system sample for the year 2019 in the distribution system.

Most well water in Leicester contains at least trace concentrations of Arsenic. The District treats for removal of arsenic from Well 01G. The literature indicates that some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience damage to their skin or experience problems with their circulatory system. It is also possible that there would be an increased risk of getting cancer.

7. EDUCATIONAL INFORMATON

Do I Need To Be Concerned About Certain Contaminants Detected In My Water?

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Hillcrest Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components of customer's houses. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Arsenic: While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral know to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Trihalomethanes (THM's): occur when naturally-occurring organic and inorganic materials in the water react with the disinfectants, chlorine and chloramine. Some people who drink water containing total trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years could experience liver, kidney, or central nervous system problems and increased risk of cancer.

Haloacetic acids (HAA's): occur when naturally-occurring organic and inorganic materials in the water react with the disinfectants, chlorine and chloramine. Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Uranium: Exposure to uranium in drinking water may result in toxic effects to the kidney. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters, such as uranium, in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

8. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Preventing backflow is an important part of maintaining a healthy water supply. The Hillcrest Water District's water distribution system is designed to carry water from the water treatment plant to the consumer. If cross connections, or connections between potable water in the distribution system to any non-potable water exist, these connections make the water distribution system susceptible to a backflow condition. A water system backflow is a reversal of water flow from its intended direction. In other words, non-potable water could be introduced into the distribution system.

There are two types of backflow:

- **Backpressure backflow**, which occurs when the pressure outside the water distribution system exceeds the pressure within the system.
- **Backsiphonage**, which occurs when a partial vacuum is created in the system sucking non-potable water back into it.

Three Common Types of Backflow



Prevention Devices for Water Systems

Pressure Vacuum Breaker

Pressure Vacuum Breaker.

This device is approved for irrigation systems, however it is rarely used because it is usually installed above ground and would be subject to freezing during winter months. This device is also approved for chemical injection systems on sprinklers. The irrigation system can be turned off at 1 of 2 shut off handles.

Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker

Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker.

This device is commonly found on older sprinkler systems, but is not approved for new installations because it is not testable. This device must be replaced with a Double Check Valve when upgrading an irrigation system. There are no shut off handles to isolate irrigation system.

Double Check Valve

Double Check Valve.

The Double Check Valve is the most widely used backflow prevention device on sprinkler systems. It is installed below grade in a standard valve box. The irrigation system can be turned off at 1 of 2 shut off handles.

Simple Steps to Prevent Backflow:

- Guard against cross connections. A garden hose is a direct connection to the drinking water in the home. Don't attach chemical sprayers or leave a garden hose submerged in a swimming pool. (Hose Bibb Vacuum Breakers may also be installed on garden hoses)
- Make sure backflow prevention device is installed on your home sprinkler system. Common devices are Double Check Valve Assemblies and Pressure Vacuum Breakers.

