



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

### City of Sanford has levels of total trihalomethanes above drinking water standards

Our water system recently exceeded a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency to our customers, you have the right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

City of Sanford routinely monitors for drinking water contaminants. Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) are by-products of the reaction of the chlorine disinfectant with the natural organic and inorganic matter in the water. The state of Florida as well as many other states requires the use of a disinfectant to minimize the possibility of bacterial contamination in the drinking water distribution system. The Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) set by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for TTHMs is 80 parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) and for HAA5s is 60 ppb. The last test results for the samples collected on November 22, 2017 were 79.04 ppb for TTHM and 23.01 ppb for HAA5. Based on test results for samples collected in previous quarters and the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2017 (February to November 2017), the running annual averages (RAAs) for TTHMs and HAA5s are 80.93  $\mu\text{g/L}$  and 22.79  $\mu\text{g/L}$  respectively. Based on the RAAs for TTHMs, a MCL exceedance exists.

#### What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time. You do not need to boil your water or take corrective actions.

#### What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately.

*Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL (80 ppb) over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.*

#### What corrective action is being taken?

The City of Sanford started the current cycle of Unidirectional Flushing (UDF) program in December 2017 and the location with the exceedance value will be flushed as part of the priority zones in the months ahead. Also, the north ground storage tank (GST) at the Main Water Plant (MWP) will be cleaned and inspected within 30 days of this notice. MWP provides water to the DBPs location where the exceedance occurred. These actions are standard methods to immediately improve TTHM water quality, and the City of Sanford is in the planning stage for treatment improvements at the MWP that will further reduce TTHM levels.

City of Sanford will continue to monitor and report the TTHM and HAA5 results to you on a quarterly basis as long as the running annual average exceeds the MCL, as required by FDEP.

For more information, please contact the City of Sanford Utility Department at 407-688-5113 or [utilitycustomerservice@Sanfordfl.gov](mailto:utilitycustomerservice@Sanfordfl.gov).

*Please share this information with 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 City of Sanford. State Water System ID#: 3590205. Date distributed: March 9th, 2018



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

### **Monitoring Requirements Not Met for the City of Sanford (re-sample taken February 2018 meets health and quality control standards)**

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. Due to the laboratory using an estimated value for the 2017 cyanide result for quality control, the sample was not acceptable for compliance purposes by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and therefore we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time (October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018) for that specific contaminant (cyanide).

Historically, cyanide results have been undetected in the City's drinking water. Sampling for primary and secondary inorganics was done last quarter 2017 and it is required to do once every three years.

#### **What should I do?**

There is nothing you need to do at this time. You do not need to boil your water or use an alternative water supply.

#### **What does this mean?**

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately.

*Some people who drink water containing cyanide well in excess of the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 0.2 mg/L for many years could experience nerve damage or problems with their thyroid.*

#### **What corrective action is being taken?**

The laboratory used an estimated value for the 2017 cyanide result for quality control. The estimated result did not detect cyanide. Typically, quality assurance and quality control data indicate whether an estimated sample is acceptable or not. In this case, the FDEP determined that the sample was not acceptable and needed to be retested. The sample was not retested during the 2017 compliance period, prompting the requirement for public notification. We have since taken a makeup sample on February 20<sup>th</sup> 2018 and the result of the sample for cyanide was undetected (< 0.0050 mg/L).

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