

PRESS RELEASE



TODAY'S DATE: April 8, 2021

RELEASE DATE: Immediate

TITLE: Important Information About Your Drinking Water
(Press Release 2021-11)

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ST. HELENA, CA –

City of St. Helena Did Not Meet Treatment Requirement (Disinfection)

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

The City routinely monitors the distribution system for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results received for November 10, 2020, and March 09, 2021, show that our system exceeded the standard or Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for Haloacetic Acids (HAA). The MCL standard for Haloacetic Acids is 60 ug/L, the running annual average for the LSWTP Distribution System in the fourth quarter (Q4) 2020 measured 68 ug/L.

What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil your water or take other actions.**
- This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Tests taken during this same time period did not indicate the presence of bacteria in the water.
- *The current notification was not for inadequately treated water;* however, it is important to note that if water is inadequately treated it may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. These symptoms, however, are not caused only by organisms in drinking water, but also by other factors. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.
- 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 U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791.
- If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult with your doctor.

What happened? What is being done?

The Glass Fire destroyed the pre-oxidant sodium permanganate building structure and injection system for the Louis Stralla Water Treatment Plant, thus resulting in increased organic and non-organic loading in the source water. To ensure sufficient disinfection of the public drinking water, the operations staff at the LSWTP increased the chlorine dosage and increased chlorine points of injection. The increased chlorine dose has resulted in higher levels of disinfectant Haloacetic Acids byproducts (HAA5). The City received Citation 02_03_21C_023 for water quality HAA5 Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) exceedance on samples taken November 10, 2020, at Knoll Place (isolated-Knoll/Meadowood booster pump, Zone 4), and on March 9, 2021, at Knoll Place, 3029 Helena Highway in the Distribution System, Storage Tank I, and Storage Tank II. The Citation is for failure to comply with Section 64533 of the California Code of Regulations. The Running Annual Average (RAA) of the HAA5 concentration at 2810004-016 (Knoll Place) ending with the fourth quarter (Q4) 2020 measured 0.068 ug/L, which is above the Maximum Contaminant Level of 60 ug/L. Additionally, in 2021 Q1, the cumulative RAA measured exceeded the MCL. The four sites were: (1) Knoll Place at 29.6 ug/L; (2) 3029 Helena Hwy at 63.7ug/L; (3) Storage Tank I 96.4 ug/L; and (4) Storage Tank II 114.57 ug/L. The City is enacting measures (described in the City's Operation Evaluation Level (OEL) report) to reduce the level of disinfection byproducts. In summary, the City is currently working to (1) restore the sodium permanganate chemical feed system with an estimated completion date of May 15, 2021, (2) replace the mixer in Tank II which is being installed on April 8, 2021, (3) continue Volatile Organic Carbon (VOC) sampling, and (4) continue jar testing. In addition, the LSWTP Storage Tanks and the underground Clearwell structure, which stores finished potable water, have been professionally inspected and is being cleaned starting April 8, 2021 and will be completed by April 9, 2021.

For more information, please contact Jo Ann Burkman, Acting Chief Operator at (707) 339-0603 or at the following mailing address: 410 Crystal Springs Road, Saint Helena, CA 94574.

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.

Secondary Notification Requirements

Upon receipt of notification from a person operating a public water system, the following notification must be given within 10 days [per Health and Safety Code Section 116450(g)]:

- **SCHOOLS:** Must notify school employees, students, and parents (if the students are minors).
- **RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS OR MANAGERS** (including nursing homes and care facilities): Must notify tenants.
- **BUSINESS PROPERTY OWNERS, MANAGERS, OR OPERATORS:** Must notify employees of businesses located on the property.

This notice is being sent to you by City of St. Helena

State Water System Number: 2810004

Date distributed: April 8, 2021

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