THE QUALITY OF YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Fairhaven Board of Public Works is committed to providing our customers with high quality drinking water that meets or surpasses state and federal standards for quality and safety. To ensure delivery of a quality product, we have made and will continue to make significant investments in water treatment, water quality monitoring and upgrades to the water distribution system. We are pleased to report the results of our 2012 testing program to inform you about your drinking water.

In 2012, all our water was purchased from the Mattapoisett River Valley Water District (MRVWD) Treatment Facility (PWS ID# 4173001). The MRVWD consists of eight ground water wells located in the Mattapoisett River Valley. Fairhaven has four wells, Mattapoisett has three wells and Marion has one well that pump to the MRVWD Treatment Facility. The treatment process consists of PH adjustment with sodium hydroxide then ozonation followed by ultra filtration to remove iron and manganese. The facility is operated by the Town of Mattapoisett. For more information regarding the facility contact William T. Nicholson, Mattapoisett Superintendent at 508-758-4161.

Fairhaven maintains two emergency connections to purchase water from the City of New Bedford. This water is from a surface source, the principal storage area being Little Quittacas Pond in Rochester, and is treated at the Quittacas Treatment Plant. Chloramines are added to the water for disinfection. In 2012 we did not utilize the emergency connections with New Bedford.

The Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Program accesses the susceptibility of public water supplies to potential contamination by microbiological pathogens and chemicals. A susceptibility ranking of high was assigned to the Fairhaven Water Department using the information collected during the assessment by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. The complete SWAP Report is available from the Fairhaven Water Department office located in the Board of Public Works building at 5 Arsene Street. Please call Mr. Edward Fortin at 508-979-4032 with any questions and comments you have or to find out when the Board meetings are held to discuss water quality issues.

THE SUBSTANCES FOUND IN YOUR 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. It 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 sewerage 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, or farming.

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

Organic chemical contaminants - including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts 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 Mass DEP and the 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 the Massachusetts Department of Public Health 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

WATER QUALITY ANALYSIS SUMMARY

The table below lists any regulated contaminants that were detected in the water quality analysis in 2012 or as otherwise indicated. The table contains the name of each substance; the highest level allowed (MCL), the ideal goals for public health (MCLG), the amount detected and the typical source of contamination.

Substance (Contaminant)	90th percen -tile	Action level	# of Sites Sampled	# of Sites above action level	Violation	Typical source of contaminant
LEAD (PPB)*	5	15	32	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper (PPM)*	0.56	1.3	32	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing

Substance (Contaminant)	Highest level detected	Range of detection	Highest level allowed (MCL)	Ideal goal (MCLG)	Violation	Typical source of contaminant
Nitrate (PPM)	0.50	0.47-0.50	10.0	<10.0	No	Runoff from fertilizer use;leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	0.84	0.52-0.84	15	0	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2.15	1.35-2.15	5	0	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Chloroform (PPM)	0.6	ND-0.6	Unregul ated	0	No	By- product of Drinking Water Disinfection
Perchlorate (PPB)	0.10	0.09-0.10	2.0 PPB	0	No	Rocket Propellants, Fireworks, Flares, Blasting Agents

Some levels of tetrachloroethylene can be present in the water in locations that are serviced by vinyl lined water mains. These locations are monitored on a yearly basis to insure that any detected levels are below the MCL established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. No levels of tetrachloroethylene were detected in any of the locations tested in 2012.

- Results are from samples analyzed in 2011

IMPORTANT TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

MCL – Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.
MCLG – Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
PPM – One part per million
PPB – One part per billion
TT – Treatment Technique: A process aimed to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
ND – None detected
AL – Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
pCi/L – Picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

*IMPORTANT HEALTH NOTICE

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. The Fairhaven Water Department 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.*

IMPORTANT HEALTH NOTICE

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 infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA / Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

2012 MAINTENANCE WORK DONE

- 45 street and main leaks repaired
- 3 lead services replaced with copper
- 12 fire hydrants replaced or installed

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WATER CONSERVATION

Water Conservation measures help to ensure adequate water availability for residential and emergency use. When you conserve water you save money, energy and help protect the environment. The high quality water that we need and expect in our homes is not an infinite resource. Please use it wisely.

CROSS CONNECTIONS AND BACKFLOWS

A cross connection is any actual or potential connection between the drinking water lines and a potential source of pollution or contamination. Backflow is the undesired reverse of the water flow in the drinking water pipes. Half of the Country's cross connection incidents involve backflow through unprotected garden hoses. Make sure that all outside spigots are protected with a proper vacuum breaker. Never submerge a hose in soapy water buckets, pet watering containers, pools, tubs, sinks, drains or chemicals. Restaurant and commercial business owners need to make sure that non potable water or chemicals used in their establishments do not enter the potable water system. Equipment such as dishwashers, air conditioning systems, fire protection systems, boilers and post mix beverage dispensers all need to have approved backflow prevention devices installed on their water feed lines. For more information on cross connections and backflow contact the Water Department.

Fairhaven Water Department
5 Arsene Street
Fairhaven, MA 02719

PORTUGUESE IMPORTANTE !
O relatorio contem infomacoes importantes sobre a qualidade da agua da comunidade. Traduza-o ou peca ajuda de uma pessoa amiga para ajuda-lo a entender melhor.

2012 WATER QUALITY REPORT
FAIRHAVEN WATER DEPARTMENT
PWS ID# 4094000