WHAT TYPES OF CONTAMINANTS ARE TESTED AND REGULATED?

The 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, or 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 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, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

WHAT IS CRYPTOSPORIDIUM?

Cryptosporidium is a microscopic parasite that can cause intestinal illness, which can be life-threatening for persons with weakened immune systems. These organisms are fairly common in surface water, such as rivers, streams, and open reservoirs. As the City water comes exclusively from deep groundwater wells we are not required to sample for Cryptosporidium. However we have collected samples for Cryptosporidium periodically over past years and our tests have not detected any Cryptosporidium in water from wells that supply the City of Klamath Falls system.

HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR WATER

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 (1-800-426-4791).

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 infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC 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).

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 City of Klamath Falls 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 drinking 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.

How can the public participate in decisions that may affect the quality of water?

The City of Klamath Falls Water Division operations are governed by the City Council - five elected members and the Mayor.

The Council meets the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. in the council chambers at the City Administration Building, 500 Klamath Avenue. The public is welcome to attend.

City Of Klamath Falls
Public Works Department
P.O. Box 237
Klamath Falls, Or 97601
541.883.5363

City of Klamath Falls

Water Quality Report 2009

2009 WATER QUALITY REPORT

This report is provided in conformance with federal guidelines for annual distribution of water quality information. We have provided similar information to our customers for many years, and believe in the importance of making it available, however, we also realize that this topic can be rather technical. We have attempted to provide a report that is informative yet concise. If you would like additional information, we encourage you to call us at (541) 883-5388.

Water is truly an essential part of each of our lives. We rely on water daily for a wide range of uses, from growing the crops we eat to aiding industrial processes. But none of these uses is more important than our need for high quality water that we can safely drink. The City of Klamath Falls Public Works Water Division is committed to providing our community with a drinking water supply of the highest quality

The City tests its water regularly for 123 potential contaminates as required by the State Department of Human Services Drinking Water Program, the EPA and the Safe Drinking Water Act. Potential contaminants are monitored and the results are reported to the State Department of Human Services as required.

While water regulations and monitoring guidelines have become more stringent, our City water consistently exceeds all state and federal health standards.

WATER SYSTEM FACTS

- The City of Klamath Falls Water System consists of 11 water production wells, 21 water reservoirs (tanks) storing approximately 16.6 million gallons, 23 water booster stations and 250 miles of transmission and distribution mains including more than 1000 fire hydrants.
- The City of Klamath Falls Water System delivers water to nearly 40,000 customers through 16,000 service connections.
- City Water employs 24 full time employees in the Maintenance, Utility Billing and Water Divisions.
- City Utility Bills are issued monthly.
- The average summer daily demand is 13.2 million gallons.
- Backflow Prevention Devices are required on all underground sprinkler systems that are served by City Water.
- The City does not add fluoride to City Water.

City Water Division staff collected over 500 water quality samples during 2009. These samples were analyzed for microbiological and organic contaminates including carcinogenic disinfection by-products. As indicated by these analysis City water continues to exceed standards established by the EPA and the Safe Drinking Water Act. Also samples are collected daily at multiple representative points within the water system and analyzed for proper disinfectant residuals as required by State law.

WATER QUALITY RESULTS FOR 2009

PWSID #4100443

While the vast majority of substances monitored are not found within our water, the table below includes information that tends to be of the most interest to our customers. If you desire further information, a complete summary of test results is available at the billing office or can be acquired by calling 541-883-5388.

Substance	Unit Description	Goal (MCLG)*	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)*	Range Detected or Overall Results	Source of Substance	Violation?
RESULTS OF MICROBIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS						
Total Coliform Bacteria	positive samples/ month		Coliform bacteria may be present in no more than 5% of monthly samples	Zero positive samples	Naturally present in the environment	No
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	positive samples/ month		The standard is exceeded if a routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or E. coli positive.	Zero positive samples	Human and animal fecal waste	No
RESULTS OF LEAD AND COPPER SAMPLING FROM RESIDENTIAL WATER TAPS						
Copper	ppm*	1.35	AL*: 90% of the homes tested must have copper levels less than 1.35 ppm*.	90th percentile value = 0.0436 ppm* No sample exceeded the action level.	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	No
Lead	ppm*	0	AL*: 90% of the homes tested must have lead levels less than 0.0150 ppm*.	90th percentile value = 0.0016 ppm* No sample exceeded the action level.	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	No

ADDITIONAL SAMPLES TAKEN AT EACH WATER SOURCE

Substance or Variable	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)* or Standard	Balsam Well	Conger Wellfield	Debbie Well	Fremont Well	Hilyard Well	Homedale Well	Wocus Well
Temperature (in degrees Fahrenheit)		68.5	68	71.5	58	73	74	66
Ph	<6.5/>8.5**	7.6	8.0	8.0	7.5	8.2	7.5	7.8
Hardness as Calcium Bicarbonate	250	122.0	52.0	64.0	68.0	54.0	126.0	52.0
Iron	0.3*	0.194	0.02	0.03	0.185	0.029	0.02	0.02
Fluoride	4	0.193	0.26	0.197	0.301	0.432	0.301	0.295
Manganese	No Standard Set	ND	0.01	0.023	0.244	0.01	0.01	0.01
Sodium	No Standard Set	25.0	25.6	31.5	21.2	33.8	11.8	24.8
Lead	0.015	ND	0.002	ND	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
Arsenic	0.01	ND	0.005	ND	0.005	0.005	0.007	0.008
Nitrate	10.0	1.11	0.12	ND	0.1	0.39	0.95	0.37

Disinfection by-products samples from representative locations were analyzed with no positive results.

Raw water (untreated sample) from each well was analyzed monthly throughout the year. No pathogens were detected.

**These guidelines are secondary standards, not MCLs. They are generally based on aesthetic effects rather than health concerns. All measurements are in parts per million (ppm*) unless otherwise stated.

***UNIT DESCRIPTIONS:**
ppm (Parts per million), **ppb** (Parts per Billion), **mg/L** (milligrams per liter)

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

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

ND Not Detected