

2008 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Sunrise Estates / Fairgrounds Water System

Is my water safe?

Last year, we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants. We only detected 9 of those contaminants, and found only 1 at a level higher than the EPA allows. As we told you at the time, our water temporarily exceeded drinking water standards. (For more information see the section labeled Violations at the end of the report.) This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

Our water source is ground water taken from 3 wells within the Sunrise Estates / Fairgrounds Water System. Well number 1, located on Crocket Lane and East Valley, serves as a backup domestic water supply for our customers within the Sunrise Estates Subdivision. Well number 2, located at end of Crocket Lane, is the primary domestic water supply for our customers. Well number 3 is located on Pinto Lane in Ruhensroth. The water from well number 2 and well number 3 are pumped to the tank located east of the Fairgrounds then gravity flowed through the Fairgrounds Sunrise Estates Water system.

Source water assessment and its availability

All three wells in the Sunrise Estates / Fairgrounds Water System may not comply with the revised Arsenic Maximum Contaminant Level of 10 Parts per Billion that became effective in January 2006 with a January 2009 compliance date. There were no identified sources of potential contamination to the aquifer providing the water to the water system, or the sources of potential contamination were determined to pose a low potential to contaminate the drinking water system.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking 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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and 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 that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved?

To get involved, please see our newly adopted Water Conservation Plan at <http://cltr.co.douglas.nv.us/Utilities/Waterplan.pdf>

Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 350 gallons of water per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost or no-cost ways to conserve water. Water your lawn at the least sunny times of the day. Fix toilet and faucet leaks. Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath. Turn the faucet off while brushing your teeth and shaving; 3-5 gallons go down the drain per minute. Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!

Variance and Exemptions

Sunrise Estates / Fairgrounds Water System has Arsenic levels in exceedence of the new standard of 10 ppb set down by the EPA in January 2006. The water system has been granted an exemption and extension in our efforts to meet the revised lower limits for Arsenic, in effect until January 23, 2011. Douglas County Public Works is evaluating options for a new water source that complies with the new Arsenic Standards.

Monitoring and reporting of compliance data violations

We constantly monitor for various constituents in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. This past year we failed to monitor for Arsenic for the first and second quarter of 2008. This does not pose a threat to the quality of our water supply.

Additional Information for Lead

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. Fairgrounds Water System 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>.

Additional Information for Nitrate

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG or MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL, TT, or MRDL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Range Low High</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	23	7 23	2008	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes

Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.022	NA		2007	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	4	NA		2007	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.15	NA		2007	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	5.7	0.9	5.7	2008	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Radioactive Contaminants

Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	2.56	0.94	2.56	2007	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	0	50	4.53	3.42	4.53	2007	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits. The EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for Beta particles.
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	0.539	0.09 43	0.539	2005	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ug/L)	0	30	1	ND	1	2007	No	Erosion of natural deposits

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Sample Date</u>	<u># Samples Exceeding AL</u>	<u>Exceeds AL</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
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Inorganic Contaminants

Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.08	2007	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
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Unit Descriptions

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
ug/L	ug/L : Number of micrograms of substance in one liter of water
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
MCLG	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.
MCL	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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

Violations and Exceedances

Arsenic

Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. The table shows that our system uncovered some problems this year. The Sunrise Estates Water System has Arsenic levels in exceedence of the new standard of 10 ppb set down by the EPA in January 2006. The Water System has been granted an exemption and extension in our efforts to meet the revised lower limits for Arsenic, in effect until January 23, 2011. The potential adverse health effects are some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Douglas County Public Works is evaluating options for a new water source that complies with the Arsenic Standards.

For more information please contact:

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