IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) Exceedance at Weapons Area

The purpose of this notice is to inform you that an exceedance of a drinking water quality standard recently occurred for the water system that services the B524 at the Weapons Area on the main base. Although this incident is not an emergency, residents and personnel using Navy facilities in this area have a right to know what happened and what efforts will be made to correct this situation.

What should I do?

- **There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.** (If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, immediate notifications will be made and will be completed no later than 24 hours upon discovery.)
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.

What are Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)?

TTHM are four volatile organic chemicals which form when disinfectants (chlorine) react with natural organic matter in the potable water system. Chlorine is a common disinfectant used in drinking water systems to remove bacterial contaminants. Because of this, trihalomethanes are present in virtually all chlorinated water.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency situation. At SUBASENLON, we routinely sample drinking water at various locations on base in accordance with Navy requirements. Water samples are tested for disinfection byproducts to include TTHM every three months at locations that are at endpoints of the water distribution system and thus prone to minimal water use and extended stagnate rest time in pipes. Building 524 is the current designated monitoring location for TTHM values on the main base.

Test results from samples taken at B524 on July 6, 2021 show that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for TTHM due to high readings within the water system.

The MCL for TTHM is 80 parts per billion (ppb) calculated on a rolling average using the results of the previous four quarters of samples. The level of TTHM averaged as a result of the latest sample was 86 ppb.

Parts Per Billion in Perspective

Parts per billion (ppb) is one way of expressing the concentration of a contaminant in drinking water. Eighty (80) ppb of TTHM equates to 80 drops of the chemical in one billion (1,000,000,000) drops of water. (Note: To help put this into perspective, 80 ppb is roughly the equivalent of 1 cup in an Olympic sized swimming pool or 80 seconds out of 32 years.

This MCL is set at a conservative level and is based on a person drinking 2 liters of water every day over the course of 70 years. People who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. If you have health concerns seek advice from your health care provider.

What is being done?

The Public Works Department (PWD) at SUBASENLON is taking the following steps to lower the TTHMs in your drinking water:

- Evaluate the current flushing program utilized on base and make necessary adjustments in order to increase water flow and reduce rest time.
- Investigate possible corrective action measures with our water supplier Groton Utilities that may help to reduce TTHM levels.
- Perform follow-up analysis to ensure TTHM levels decrease throughout the entire main base water system.
- Provide notices to Weapons and other base personnel in the near future regarding these efforts.

For more information, please contact the Environmental Division at (860) 694-5140.

For general information on TTHMs, you may also call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800)-426-4791 or visit the EPA web site at http://www.epa.gov/safewater

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly. 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 the Commanding Officer, Naval Submarine Base New London,
and the Public Works New London Environmental Division.
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