

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

CITY OF OTTAWA

Has Levels of Haloacetic Acids Above Drinking Water Standards

Important Information About Your Drinking Water

Haloacetic Acid levels have returned to normal after brief spike caused by naturally occurring organic material found in water. Our water system recently exceeded a drinking water standard. While this is not an emergency, we want to keep you informed about what happened, what you need to know, and the steps we've taken to resolve the situation.

The good news is that our most recent test results, from August 6, 2024, show that the levels are back to normal. Over the next few months, we expect the average levels of Haloacetic Acids (HAA) in our water system to continue to drop, and we do not foresee any further issues. Even though we briefly exceeded the standard, the water has been and continues to be safe to drink. If there had been any immediate risk, we would have notified you immediately.

What caused the issue?

Haloacetic Acids (HAA) are byproducts that form when disinfectants like chlorine react with natural materials in the water. The EPA sets limits on how much of these byproducts can be present. Compliance is measured through a locational running annual average (LRAA), which takes the average of four quarterly tests from each sample location. The standard for HAA is 60 micrograms per liter (ug/L).

In May 2024, some of our samples were higher than normal, which caused our running annual average to rise. A sample taken on August 6, 2024, showed that at one location, the average level was slightly over the limit at 61 ug/L.

What should I do?

You do not need to use bottled water or take other precautions. However, if you have specific health concerns, please consult your doctor.

What does this mean for my health?

This situation is not an immediate risk. If it were, we would have informed you right away. Long-term exposure to water with high levels of HAAs may increase the risk of certain health issues, such as cancer, but brief exceedances like this are unlikely to have any health impact.

What are we doing?

The elevated levels were caused by samples collected in May 2024, which temporarily raised the LRAA. Now that our latest sampling shows the levels are back to normal, we expect the average to continue dropping, and we do not anticipate further issues.

We are committed to maintaining the safety of your drinking water and will continue monitoring it to ensure it meets EPA standards.

For more information, please contact Name: Mark Higgs at Phone: 785-229-3699 Or by Mail: 101 S HICKORY ST, PO BOX 60, OTTAWA, KS 66067

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.

This notice is being sent to you by CITY OF OTTAWA.