

**Forks Municipal Water
City of Forks
2018
Report to Consumers on Water Quality**

Dear Customer: We are pleased to present a summary of the quality of the water provided to you during the year 2018. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that utilities issue an annual "Consumer Confidence" report to customers in addition to the other notices that may be required by law. This report details where our water comes from, what it contains, and the risks our water testing and treatment are designed to prevent. Forks Municipal Water is committed to providing you with a safe and reliable supply of water. Informed consumers are our best allies in maintaining safe drinking water.

The bottom line: Does Forks City water meet all federal and state regulations for drinking water? Absolutely.

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. Regular city council meetings occur on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, at city hall at 7:30 p.m. The public is welcome. Find out more about Forks Municipal Water on the Internet at [www.forkswashington.com].

Overview

In 2018 Forks Municipal Water distributed just over 178.4-million gallons of water to the Forks area.

Water Conservation: It is important to conserve water when possible. In 2017 and 2018 we implemented voluntary water restrictions, but 2015 and 2016 water restrictions were mandatory. According to reports issued by the USDA, snow pack levels are low, which means water restrictions are likely to be implemented in 2019. It is always a good idea to conserve water.

Call Before You Dig: It is very important to call 811 before you dig. We have had water mains broken by construction equipment in past years when people forgot, or chose not, to call 811 to have utility lines located. Those water-main breaks resulted in a considerable amount of water loss.

Cross Connections: A cross connection is an actual or potential link between the potable water supply and a source of contamination (sewage, chemicals, gas, or any nonpotable water). The most common cross connections around the house are caused by garden hoses. If a water main is broken, it can result in a phenomenon known as backsiphonage. Backsiphonage occurs when a partial vacuum is created in a piping system and causes flow in the opposite direction of normal flow. If a property owner has a hose hooked up to a potable water source and the opposite open end is submerged in a contaminant (chemicals, pond, pool, hot tub, fertilizer or soap sprayer, etc.), that contaminant could be siphoned back into the water system if a water main is broken. There have been many cases of the public becoming ill due to cross connections. Commercial properties often have backflow preventers installed and regularly inspected. If you are concerned about a possible cross connection, please contact the City.

Water Leak Repair: We understand that emergencies occur, but it is always best to have the City turn off water at the meter for leak repairs. Turning off water incorrectly may cause damage to the meter, valve, or pipes. Property owners or residents can protect themselves from any liability or costly repairs associated with such damage by having the City turn off the water for them. The Water Department can be reached at 360-374-5412, ext. 238 during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. M-F). For after-hours emergencies call 360-374-2223, ext. 4.

Water Main Installation: Water mains are replaced or added throughout the year due to age and City growth. Please use caution around construction zones. One of our goals is always to limit the impact of such work on home and business owners as much as possible, but unforeseen circumstances do occur. Please feel free to contact the Water Department with any concerns. We will do our best to address them in a timely manner.

Water Tank Rehabilitation: In 2018 the City of Forks received a USDA loan for water tank rehabilitation. The work began in November 2018, and will continue into the first half of 2019. The one-million gallon tank and the 750,000-gallon tank are being recoated inside and out. Telemetry will also be installed on the 750,000-gallon tank so that we may better track the tank's water level.

Our water comes from 5 wells, which are located from the Forks water compound at 300 Lupine Ave. to the radio station. Our water as pumped from the ground passes all state health standards for potable water. To insure that it stays clean and safe, we add a very small amount of chlorine to kill any bacteria that could enter the system accidentally such as during a water main break or a back flow situation. Chlorinated systems are required to maintain just a trace of chlorine through out the distribution system. We try to maintain a minimum of .2-ppm chlorine, which is comparable to one inch in 80 miles or one minute in ten years. In addition we take at least 5 routine water samples per month and have them tested at an accredited lab for microbes such as total coliform, fecal coliform, and E-coli, contamination. According to lab tests in February 2018 the water we pump from the ground has .05 mg/L of natural fluoride. Washington State Dept. of Health recently lowered the recommended optimum fluoride level from 1.0 mg/L to 0.7 mg/L. So the City now raises the fluoride level in the water to approximately .7 mg/L to help children grow healthy strong teeth. We test the fluoride level in the water at least 2 times each work day and we send 2 water samples to an accredited lab each month to be sure we are in compliance with all federal and state regulations for fluoride.

Once every nine years we send water to an independent lab and have it tested for at least 24 inorganic chemicals such as nickel, iron, and sodium. Every three years we test for over 60 volatile organic chemicals that are trihalomethanes such as styrene, chloroform, and butylbenzene and for 45 synthetic organic compounds such as naphthalene, pyrene, and PCB's. Every year we also test for nitrate contamination in the water. Chlorine and fluoride levels are monitored every workday in two different locations. Results from our latest testing are reflected in the tables below.

In the summer of 2018 the Forks Water Department took water samples from 20 homes and had it tested for Lead and Copper content. All of the samples passed easily. We have no lead water mains or service lines in our system. All new brass parts purchased in the last several years are made of no lead brass.

(An important water question) Is water that meets Federal drinking water standards absolutely safe?

Safety is relative not absolute. For example, an aspirin or two may help a headache, but if you took a whole bottle at once, you'd probably die. So, is aspirin safe? When setting drinking water standards, federal regulatory agencies use the concept of **reasonable risk**, not risk-free. Risk-free water would cost too much. So the answer to the question is, no, drinking water isn't *absolutely* safe. But the likelihood of getting sick from drinking water that meets the federal standards is very small, typically one chance in a million.

One difficulty the US Environmental Protection Agency has when trying to determine reasonable risk relates to the problem called **susceptible population**. Not all people who drink water are the same from a health point of view, that is, some people are more susceptible to getting sick than others. For example, only babies three months old or younger are affected by nitrates in drinking water, so for that contaminant they are the susceptible population: They are susceptible to getting sick from too much nitrate in their drinking water. The standard for nitrate therefore was chosen to protect these infants. With other contaminants, identifying the susceptible population is not as easy. Are they the elderly, those undergoing cancer treatment, those in nursing homes, all babies, those who are HIV positive, or others? For each standard the federal regulatory agencies must balance the risk to all these groups against the cost of treatment and arrive at a standard that will protect as many people as possible and that can be afforded. This is called "the greatest good for the greatest number." (Plain Talk about drinking Water) third edition. Pages 165

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How to Read This Table

The table below shows the results of our water-quality analyses for the last five years after testing for over 175 contaminants. Every regulated contaminant that we detected at or above the SRL in the water is listed here. The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health, (MCLG), the amount detected, the usual sources of such contamination, footnotes explaining our findings, and a key to units of measurement. Definitions of MCL and MCLG are important.

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

Minimum Detection Level or MDL: The minimum level of a contaminant at or above which the testing laboratory must report detection.

Key to Table

AL = Action Level

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level
MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
MDL=Minimum Detection Level
MFL = million fibers per liter
Ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
ppb= parts per billion, or micrograms per liter
SRL = State Dept. of Health minimum reporting level

Contaminant	Date Tested	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Amount Detected	SRL	Major Sources	Violations
Inorganic Contaminant								
Fluoride, F	4/12/18	mg/L	4	0.7	2.2	.2	Erosion of natural deposits; Additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and Aluminum factories.	NO

Water Quality Table Footnote

1. Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL of 4 mg/L, for many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Children may get mottled teeth.

OVER

Unregulated Contaminants

Forks Municipal Water did not test for Radon

NOTE

Please do not plant trees or large shrubs over water mains or near water meters. We have had numerous water main breaks due to tree roots. These problems are costly and time consuming and often result in damage to lawns and other landscaping.

Required Additional Health Information

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled 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 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 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:

- (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- (E) 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. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is 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 are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). This report was prepared by the Forks Water Dept. For more information, call Forks Municipal Water at (360) 374-5412. Learn more about the Forks Municipal Water system at [www.forkswashington.com].

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante. Traduscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.