

**Mandatory Language for a Maximum Contaminant Level
Violation MCL, LRAA / TTHM**



The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has notified the CITY OF BASTROP TX0110001 that the drinking water being supplied to customers had exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for total trihalomethanes. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has established the MCL for total trihalomethanes to be 0.080 milligrams per liter (mg/L) based on locational running annual average (LRAA) and has determined that it is a health concern at levels above the MCL. Analysis of drinking water in your community for total trihalomethanes indicates a compliance value in quarter two 2022 of 0.081 mg/L for DBP2-01.

Trihalomethanes are a group of volatile organic compounds that are formed when chlorine, added to the water during the treatment process for disinfection, reacts with naturally occurring organic matter in the water.

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidney, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

You do not need to use an alternative water supply. However, if you have health concerns, you may want to talk to your doctor to get more information about how this may affect you.

We are taking the following actions to address this issue:

Reducing the organic material in raw water through filtration, optimizing disinfection processes, administering directional flushing throughout the water distribution system, development of capital improvement projects to replace or improve aging infrastructure and water treatment/distribution methods.

Please share this information with all people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (i.e., 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.

If you have questions regarding this matter, you may contact James Wilson at 512-332-8962.

Posted /Delivered on: 7/20/2022

TO: City of Bastrop Water Consumers
From: James Wilson, City of Bastrop W/WW Superintendent
Date: July 20, 2022
Subject: TTHM Violation



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I am writing to you today in response to the City's recent Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) violation. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) requires public water systems to distribute the attached Public Notice that contains very specific, mandated language in cases such as these. I believe the mandated language can leave many customers with unanswered questions and/or concerns, most of which I hope to answer below.

When Chlorine is added to water with organic material, THMs are formed. Residual chlorine molecules react with this harmless organic material to form THMs.

The quantity of byproduct formed is determined by several factors, such as the amount and type of organic material present in water, temperature, PH, chlorine dosage contact time available for chlorine, and bromide concentration in the water.

What is the city doing to reduce THMs in the system?

- A) Reducing the organic materials in raw water through filtration.
- B) Optimizing disinfection processes.
- C) Administering directional flushing throughout the water distribution system
- D) Development of capital improvement projects to replace or improve aging infrastructure and water treatment/distribution methods.

Why use Chlorine:

Without adequate disinfection of our water supplies, the health risks from micro-organisms would far outweigh the risk from THMs. Drinking water is disinfected with chlorine to kill bacteria and viruses that can cause serious illness and deaths. In fact, chlorination of drinking water has virtually eliminated typhoid fever, cholera, and many other diseases: it represents one of the greatest achievements of public health protection.

The area affected:

The area affected was zone 1, which is the older part of town from Mesquite to Hwy 71 and Hwy 95 to the river.

TCEQ Public Drinking Water Section, rev: August 12, 2005

Trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs) form when disinfectants are added to drinking water systems to kill potentially dangerous microorganism. The added disinfectants react with naturally occurring organics in the water to form other chemicals, including THMs and HAAs. Because long-term exposures to these chemicals in our water may result in adverse health effects, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established standards (the MCLs) for them. When they exceed their respective MCLs in drinking water, your provider is required to notify you. Notification is not intended to suggest that you or your family members will be harmed by the detected levels, but instead is meant to keep you informed.

Exceedance of MCLs also informs the water supplier that action is warranted to reduce the concentrations of those chemicals in the water system.

The required public notice language for these violations includes the statements:

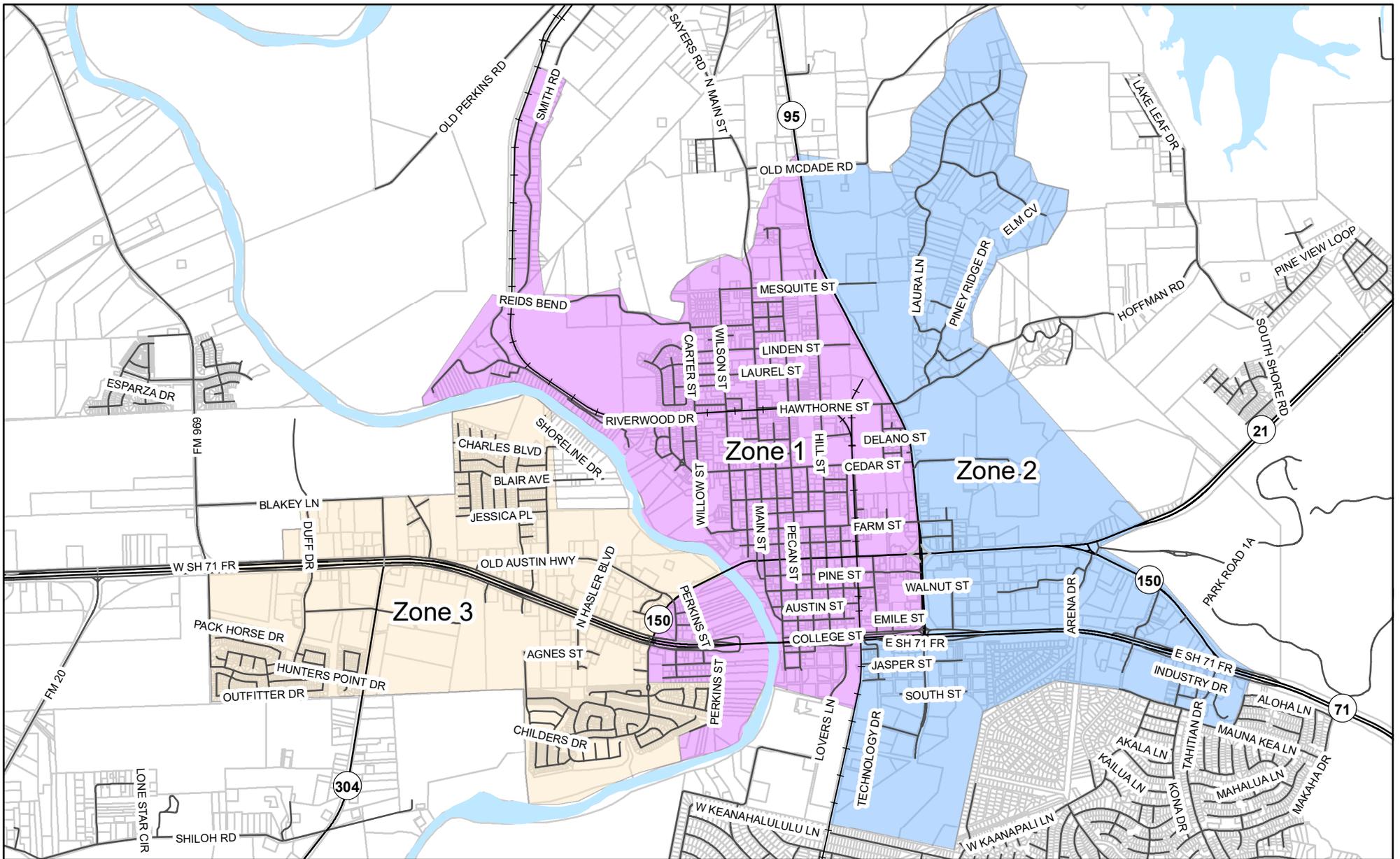
- This is not an emergency
- You do not need to use an alternative water supply

When the EPA establishes the MCL for chemical that is known or suspected to cause adverse health effects from long-term exposures, it assumes that the people who drink that water consume two liters (about half a gallon) of it every day for seventy years (approximately one lifetime).

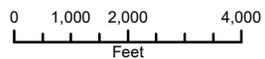
I want you, the consumer, to understand that the City staff remain committed to taking the necessary steps in providing you with safe, palatable water. Should you feel that you are still left with unanswered questions, you may contact me directly via email at jwilson@cityofbastrop.org, or by phone at (512)332-8962. I may not be able to answer immediately, but I promise to return your call or answer your emailed questions as soon as possible.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jan B. Dil". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "D".



City of Bastrop Water System Zones



Date: 2/18/2021

The accuracy and precision of this cartographic data is limited and should be used for information /planning purposes only. This data does not replace surveys conducted by registered Texas land surveyors nor does it constitute an "official" verification of zoning, land use classification, or other classification set forth in local, state, or federal regulatory processes. The City of Bastrop, nor any of its employees, do not make any warranty of merchantability and fitness for particular purpose, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of any such information, nor does it represent that its use would not infringe upon privately owned rights.