



DRINKING WATER WARNING



**Important information about your drinking water
Please read or have someone translate it for you**

TESTS SHOW PERCHLORATE IN WATER SUPPLIED TO HAMILTON WATER DEPARTMENT CUSTOMERS

The Town of Hamilton water supply was tested on August 13, 2008 and the laboratory results were reported to the Town on August 28, 2008. A sample from the Idlewood Water Treatment Plant was found to contain 32.2 parts per billion (ppb) of Perchlorate. A sample from the School Street Well was found to contain 44.4 ppb of Perchlorate. The Town turned off the School Street Well. A repeat sample from the Idlewood plant was collected to ensure accuracy of the original sample and to validate that the Perchlorate levels are true. A sample was also collected from the water distribution system at the Fire Station. Perchlorate was not detected in the repeat sample or the Fire Station sample. The Massachusetts Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for perchlorate is 2.0 ppb (see below #1).

Possible Health Effects

Perchlorate interferes with the normal function of the thyroid gland and thus has the potential to affect growth and development and could cause brain damage and other adverse effects, particularly in fetuses and infants.

What should I do?

1. Pregnant women, nursing mothers, infants, children up to the age of 12, and individuals with hypothyroidism should not consume drinking water containing concentrations of perchlorate that exceed the Maximum Contaminant Level of 2.0 ppb. Boiling the water will not remove perchlorate.
2. Ice cubes, juices, baby formula, and other beverages prepared before August 29, 2008 should be discarded.
3. The general population is advised not to drink the water if levels exceed 18 ppb.
4. If you are concerned about effects of previous exposure to perchlorate on your thyroid functions, you should contact your primary health care provider.
5. All persons including the sensitive populations may shower with the water. Bathing and skin contact with the water are not reasons for concern.

What happened? What is being done?

Perchlorate is an inorganic chemical widely used as an oxidizer in fireworks, blasting agents and in other industrial products. It can also occur due to aging of hypochlorite used to disinfect water supplies. The last monitoring for perchlorate at the Idlewood plant and the School Street Well in April 2007 did not detect perchlorate in the water.

The August 28, 2008 samples from the Idlewood plant and Fire Station did not find Perchlorate in the Town water supply. Additional testing will be done before this health advisory is lifted. The School Street Well will remain out of service until the well has been tested and determined safe for use. The Town is investigating the source of the contamination and evaluating next steps in cooperation with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

For more information and updates on the situation, please call Hamilton Water Department at (978) 468-5581.

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:
Town of Hamilton Water Department

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