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# City of Sandy *At Your Service*

A Monthly Bulletin of Community News



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we have done and are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results have shown that our system exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL), for HAA5. The standard for HAA5 is 0.06 mg/l (or 6.0 parts per hundred million). This is determined by averaging quarterly samples collected at each sampling location over a 12 month period. During the third quarter of 2017 the Locational Running Annual Average of HAA5 at three sampling locations in the system ranged between 0.0601 and 0.071 mg/l (one mg/L equals one part per million).

### 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, you would be notified within 24 hours.

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 does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours.

HAA5s are five haloacetic acid compounds which form when disinfectants (chlorine) react with natural organic matter in the water. With the connection to the City of Portland water system a portion of Sandy's water supply is composed of water from an unfiltered source (Bull Run) from which more natural organic matter may be expected. The point at which Sandy connects to the City of Portland system is also near to where Portland adds chlorine to their water and as a result we experience higher than usual disinfectant (chlorine) levels in the water. Not all water customers receive water from this source or they may receive a blend of Portland water and water from our other sources. Customers east of Langensand Road do not receive any water from the Portland source.

*People who drink water (one liter per day for 70 years) containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. The City has exceeded this standard occasionally since the connection to the City of Portland system in 2014*

### What is being done?

After investigating several other alternatives we have started pilot testing of granular activated carbon (GAC) filtration to confirm that this technique will reduce the formation of HAA5 compounds in the water we receive from Portland. GAC filtration is similar to the point of use water filters that are available for use in your home. The City has signed a compliance agreement with the state Drinking Water Program that requires us to complete improvements at our connection to the Portland system that will reduce these compounds below the regulatory limits by December of 2018.

For more information, please contact Mike Walker at 503-489-2162 or [mwalker@ci.sandy.or.us](mailto:mwalker@ci.sandy.or.us).

*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 the City of Sandy. State Water System ID#: 4100789  
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