



Havasu Water Company Drinking Water Update

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Region 9

San Francisco, CA

August 2024

What Happened?

Drinking water samples at Havasu Water Company (HWC) public water system found TTHM levels above the federal Safe Drinking Water Act's (SDWA) maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 80 micrograms per liter (ug/L) in late 2021 and the exceedance has been ongoing since. The water system is not properly operated and is failing to correct significant deficiencies in a timely manner. A precautionary Boil Water Notice was required by EPA in February 2024 to ensure the safety of HWC customers due to the system's failure to report monitoring data.

On May 28, 2024, EPA took enforcement action and issued a Unilateral Administrative Order. The order requires HWC to submit a compliance plan to EPA for approval and meet certain deadlines to correct deficiencies in its operations to return to compliance with the SDWA. Among other deadlines, the order requires HWC to serve drinking water in compliance with the TTHM MCL by December 31, 2024.

What are TTHMs?

Total trihalomethanes (TTHMs) are a group of contaminants that can form as byproducts when disinfectants like chlorine react with organic material. Sampling shows that chloroform is the main constituent of TTHMs found in the water. Long term exposure (approximately 70 years) to trihalomethanes may increase the risk of cancer, liver and kidney damage, and decreased nervous system activity. The main routes of exposure are inhalation while showering or drinking the water.

What's Next?

HWC must continue to assess and mitigate its operational issues, continue to monitor its water system, and provide regular updates to EPA to make sure it meets all the terms and conditions of the enforcement order and Safe Drinking Water Act.

Under the Administrative Order, Havasu Water Company must perform the following activities:

- Correct six significant deficiencies identified from inspection
- Retain certified operator(s) to physically operate system
- Submit compliance plan
- Serve water below TTHM MCL
- Quarterly meetings and reports
- Continuous compliance with public notice, surface water treatment rule, and TTHM monitoring requirements

How Can You Reduce Exposure to TTHMs?

Residents can reduce their long-term exposure to TTHMs by:

- Getting a granular activated carbon (GAC) filter and installing it correctly
- Taking shorter showers with lower water temperature
- Opening windows to increase ventilation when showering or boiling water
- Filling up a pitcher and setting it out before drinking the water



GAC filter

Recent Water Outages

Recently, Havasu Water Company has had several line breaks and other incidents which resulted in a loss of water pressure or water service in the system. In these instances, after the water pressure or water service is restored, customers should let their faucets run for a minimum of 10 minutes before using to flush their lines of potential contamination.

When should you contact EPA?

- If your water service goes out
- If your pressure gauge shows that the water pressure has dropped below 20 psi
- If there is a considerable amount of air in the water

Please contact the water system and EPA (wan.annie@epa.gov or 415-972-3845). When contacting EPA, please provide your address, the date and time, when service was disrupted and for how long, and any unusual conditions such as discoloration in the water.

Contacts and More Information

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For more information, please visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/ca/hwc#action>

TTHMs health effects:

1. <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts129.pdf>
2. <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts6.pdf>