

SYSTEM-WIDE PUBLIC NOTICE

High Sample Results for Copper in Drinking Water

The Highlands Water Company (UTAH15005) is providing you information on water test results. Please share this notice with everyone who uses or drinks the water.

Our water system recently detected elevated copper levels in water samples taken from three homes in the system. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what we are doing to address the situation, and what you can do.

What Happened

We recently collected water samples in response to concerns from several residents. Sample results from three residences collected May 22 and May 27 found copper concentrations above the action level for copper. The action level for copper is 1,300 ug/L. An action level is a threshold set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) above which a public water system is required to take steps to ensure public health and educate consumers on how to reduce exposure.

Contaminant	EPA Published Action Level	Results Above Action Level
Copper	1,300 ug/L	3 sample results ranging from 1,802 ug/L to 1,910 ug/L

Health Effects Information for Copper

Copper is a mineral and natural component in soils. In the correct amounts, it is an essential nutrient for humans and plants. Although copper is an important mineral, too much copper can cause health problems. Copper is widely distributed within the tissues of the body, but accumulates primarily in the liver and kidneys. A single dose of 15,000 ug/L of copper can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and intestinal cramps. Severe cases of copper poisoning have led to anemia and disruption of liver and kidney functions. Individuals with Wilson's or Menke's diseases are at higher risk from copper exposure.

How Copper Gets Into Water

Copper in drinking water most often comes from household plumbing rather than from the water system source. Copper enters drinking water when plumbing materials containing copper (such as copper pipes or other components) react with water as it passes through. In addition to the amount of copper-containing materials present in a building, the chemistry of the water being delivered to the building plays an important role in the amount of copper that may be released into the drinking water.

What We Are Doing to Address This Situation

The water system is taking the following steps to address this issue:

- Collecting and testing water samples for customers who have concerns about the water quality in their homes
- Collecting and testing additional samples for lead, copper, bacteria, iron, and manganese
- Test the chemistry of the source water to determine why issues may be occurring
- Evaluating different operational options in order to comply with the Lead & Copper Rule
- Providing timely notification to customers to comply with the Lead & Copper Rule

What You Can Do

How you can reduce exposure to lead, copper, and other metals

There are actions customers can take to reduce exposure to copper. These steps may also reduce exposure to lead and other metals. Replacement of plumbing materials, filtration, and consistent flushing are recommended methods. The following are steps customers can take:

- When your water has been sitting for several hours, flush the pipe by running the cold water tap until the water is noticeably colder before using the water for drinking or cooking. The longer water has been sitting in the pipes, the more dissolved metals it may contain.
- Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Hot water may contain higher levels of lead or copper.
- Avoid using copper piping or fixtures for locations where water will be consumed or used in food preparation (such as kitchen or bathroom sinks) to reduce copper exposure.
- Frequently clean the filter screens and aerators in faucets to remove captured particles.
- Consider using a water filter. Be aware that not all water filters are effective at reducing the concentration of copper or other metals.
- To reduce potential lead exposure, only use “lead free” or low lead piping and materials when renovating or building

More information

If you have concerns about your water or this notice, please contact:

Rodger Smith at 801-876-2510

This notice is sent to you by Highland Water Company on June 16, 2020