

PUBLIC NOTICE

Southwest Arkansas Water System – Haloacetic Acid Maximum Contaminant Level Violation

The Southwest Arkansas Water System operates under the regulations of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, which requires public notification whenever a water quality violation occurs.

Summary of Violation

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets national drinking water standards and has established a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) at 60 micrograms per liter.

During the monitoring period of January – March 2025, the level of Haloacetic Acids in our water system was recorded at 47 micrograms per liter, which exceeded the EPA's standard.

What Are Haloacetic Acids?

Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) are by-products formed when chlorine or other disinfectants used to treat drinking water react with naturally occurring organic matter. These by-products, collectively known as Disinfection Byproducts (DBPs), have been studied by the EPA due to potential health risks when consumed over long periods at high levels.

Some DBPs have been linked to increased cancer risk, as well as liver, kidney, and nervous system effects in laboratory animals. The EPA has set limits to minimize long-term health risks.

Health Information

The Arkansas Department of Health advises that there is no immediate health risk from consuming the water. This violation does not mean the water is unsafe, nor is there a need to use alternative water sources.

However, continuous exposure to elevated levels over many years may increase the risk of health effects, particularly for vulnerable populations.

Corrective Actions

The water system has implemented the following actions to reduce HAA5 levels:

- Mixers installed in the water storage tank
- Flushing of distribution system water lines

Additional Information

For questions regarding this notice, please contact the Southwest Arkansas Water System at [Insert Updated Phone Number] or the Arkansas Department of Health – Engineering Section at 501-661-2623.

For health-related concerns, contact the Arkansas Department of Health – Epidemiology Section at 501-661-2796.