



Splash

Metro Water
Newsletter
Fall 2018

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PFOS AND PFOA

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Recent news stories have brought to light the detection of perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in the southern Arizona region. PFOS and PFOA are fluorinated organic chemicals from the larger group of chemicals referred to as Perfluorinated Compound (PFCs) and are among the many emerging contaminants that are tested for by the District. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not have a regulated Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for PFOS and PFOA in drinking water but has established a health advisory level at 70 parts per trillion (ppt). For context, ppt is equivalent to a grain of sand in an Olympic size swimming pool.

Metro Water District would like its customers to know that we strive to maintain our mission to deliver safe, reliable water. Additionally, as reported in 2016, 1,4-Dioxane was found at the Horizon Hills wellsite. Similar to PFOS and PFOA, EPA has not issued an MCL for 1,4-Dioxane, but has established a health advisory level of 0.35 parts per billion (ppb). Upon discovery of 1-4,Dioxane in the well sample, the well was immediately turned off out of an abundance of caution.

Even though PFOS, PFOA, and 1-4-Dioxane are not regulated, we are taking the following proactive measures to ensure there can be no question that the District delivers safe and reliable drinking water to our customers:

- Working in close partnerships with Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and other entities.
- Keeping Horizon Hills offline until an acceptable alternative can be identified.
- Continuing enhanced sampling protocols and monitoring.
- Continuing coordination with regional providers.
- Continuing to educate customers on this issue and actions taken.

Metro Water District customers can be assured that water delivered for customer consumption meets all health advisory levels for these constituents. ♦



METRO WATER FAMILY

Jonathan Waychoff, Utility Technician III, (left) and Cliff O'Brien, Utility Technician II, (right) prepare to replace the treatment media at the Hub #1A wellsite. This treatment system removes naturally occurring arsenic from the groundwater to ensure water delivered meets all drinking water regulations. 💧



On July 4th, Ralph Garcia, Utility Supervisor, celebrated not only Independence Day, but also his retirement. Ralph started with Metro Water Company in 1985 and was there from day one when the District formed on October 2, 1992.

Ralph is pictured above with his son Daniel. Keeping it in the family, Daniel joined the District in 2013 and is currently a Utility Technician II.

We wish Ralph a relaxing retirement! 💧



Trainings are regularly offered to provide staff with additional knowledge and to refresh previously learned skills.

In the above picture, Ian Scrimshaw, Utility Technician III, demonstrates the proper techniques involved in water quality sampling. 💧

Frozen!



Frozen water pipes are not only a concern for those who live in the colder climates, it is a concern here in the southwest. While in the summer months the temperatures can reach over 100° F, the winter months can experience temperatures cold enough to freeze water pipes. In some cases, warmer climates can be more vulnerable to frozen pipes as many people are not accustomed to preparing pipes for cold weather.

Frozen water pipes can be caused by a drop in temperature, poor insulation, and if the thermostat is set too low. The result is a block in the water supply preventing water from getting to certain parts of the house. In severe cases, the pipes can burst which can cause damage and possible flooding.

Here are some recommendations to help protect the pipes from freezing:

- * Look in and around your home for any water pipes exposed to the elements – typically, this would include the main pipe entering the house, irrigation lines, backflow preventers, swamp cooler lines, and swimming pool lines.
- * Drain water from pipes leading to outside faucets and disconnect garden hoses.
- * Locate areas and add insulation to water pipes located in unheated areas such as garages or under kitchen or bathroom sinks.
- * If you plan to be away from home, leave your heat set on a temperature no lower than 55° F.



Now, if you have done all you can to prevent frozen pipes but your pipes still freeze, don't panic.

- * When you turn your faucets on and nothing comes out leave them turned on.
- * Check all faucets to see which pipes are frozen.
- * Use heating pads around the pipe, a hair dryer or a space heater to thaw the pipe. Start

warming the pipe close the faucet and work down.

- * If you are unable to locate the frozen pipe, or a pipe had burst, leave the water faucet on, turn off the water at the main shut off valve, and contact a licensed plumber.

The winter months will be here before we know it so while the temperature is still in the triple digits let's ensure we prepare our pipes for before the cold weather hits. ♠

SPOTLIGHT ON METRO SOUTHWEST



Pictured is Eric Gaytan, Utility Technician II, (right) and Albert Westrope, Utility Technician II, (left) working to repair a failed polybutylene waterline in the Metro Southwest - Diablo Village service area. The District's Utility Team performs proactive and emergency maintenance activities to ensure deliveries of safe and reliable water to District customers. ♠

Board of Directors:

Judy Scrivener, Chair
Bryan Foulk, Vice Chair
Jim Doyle, Member
Helen Ireland, Member
Dan M. Offret, Member

Board Meetings:

*Wednesday, October 10, 2018
*Wednesday, November 14, 2018
Monday, December 10, 2018

Board meetings are held at
6265 N. La Cañada Drive
and typically start
at 6:00 p.m.

*Board meetings are typically held
the second Monday of each month.
If it falls on a holiday, the meeting
is moved to Wednesday.

Office Location:
6265 N. La Cañada Dr.
Tucson, Arizona 85704

Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Friday 7:30 a.m. - Noon

Metro Water offices will be closed:

*Monday, October 8, 2018
Columbus Day*

*Monday, November 12, 2018
Veterans Day Observed*

*Thursday, November 22, 2018
Thanksgiving Day*

*Friday, November 23, 2018
Thanksgiving Friday*

ADVISORY BOARD SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The Community Advisory Board (CAB) for the Shannon Road/ El Camino del Cerro Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) site is seeking interested citizens to join in the discussion of the groundwater investigation and cleanup work at that site. This WQARF site includes Metro Water District's South Shannon well treatment system, which is funded by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ).

The CAB's main function is to advise the public and ADEQ of issues and concerns related to the WQARF site. CAB's are composed of volunteer residents, water providers, and other interested parties who represent a diversified cross-section of the community in and around the site. Metro Water District is a CAB member and encourages its customers to participate.

Designated by the State, a WQARF (or State superfund) site is an area eligible for State funds or oversight for environmental cleanup. No one is being served contaminated water within this WQARF site. All known affected wells in the area were placed out of production with the exception of the District's South Shannon well, which has a treatment system to remove any contaminants.

If you are interested in being a member of the CAB, or attending a meeting, please call Wendy Flood, ADEQ's Lead Community Involvement Coordinator, at (602)771-4410. All applications received will be reviewed and voted on by the CAB members. For more information about the WQARF program, including CAB meeting agendas and minutes, visit ADEQ's web site at www.azdeq.gov/envIRON/waste/sps/index.html. ♠



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