

A high-speed photograph of water splashing, creating a dynamic and refreshing visual. The water is captured in mid-air, with numerous droplets and a central stream falling into a pool of water below, which is splashing outwards. The lighting is bright, highlighting the clarity and movement of the water.

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

REPORTING YEAR 2019

Presented By
**Evergreen
Metropolitan District**

Our Mission Continues

We are once again pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2019. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals

of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Please remember that we are always available should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.



Important Health Information

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection

by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



Community Participation

Community members are always invited to participate in our public meetings and voice any concerns you might have about the drinking water or other issues pertaining to the District. Board meetings are normally scheduled for the fourth Wednesday of each month, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The meetings are held at the Gerald C. Schulte Administration Office located at 30920 Stagecoach Boulevard, Evergreen, Colorado. A complete list of meeting dates for the year 2020 is available at the Administration Office. It is also available on our Web site at www.evergreenmetro.org. We invite the public to tour any of our facilities, especially the water treatment facility. Please call (303) 674-4112 to set up a time.

Capital Projects

Evergreen Metropolitan District is in the engineering phase to build a new drinking water pumping station at the existing water treatment plant. The existing pumping station was built in 1962 and does not meet today's pumping needs, energy efficiency, safety codes, and maintenance requirements. Construction for this capital project is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2020 with a completion date of fall 2021.

Information on the Internet

The U.S. EPA (<https://goo.gl/TFAMKc>) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) Web sites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation, and public health. Also, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has a Web site (<https://goo.gl/1BBbfu>) that provides complete and current information on water issues in Colorado, including valuable information about our watershed.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please contact the Administration Office at (303) 674-4112.

Substances That Could Be in Water

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material; and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;

Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



Lead in Home Plumbing

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The water supply for Evergreen Metropolitan District comes from the Upper Bear Creek Watershed. The watershed begins at the top of the Mount Evans Wilderness area. The water supply resides in the watershed in the form of snow pack, rainfall, and lake storage. Evergreen Lake is located at the base of the Upper Bear Creek Watershed. The lake is about 600 acre-feet in size, or about 197 million gallons. It is a relatively shallow lake, with an average depth of 15 feet. The Evergreen Metropolitan District Water Treatment Plant draws water from the lake at a point near the dam on the northeast end. Evergreen Lake provides a high-quality, low-hardness water supply. However, because it is surface water and is relatively shallow and small in size, it is susceptible to impact from periodic high stream flows due to spring runoff and summer rainstorm events. The treatment process used by the District is capable of handling these periodic, poor-water-quality events.

The Bear Creek Watershed Association is an organization of groups with significant interest in and responsibility for the health and well-being of the Bear Creek Watershed. The group does a significant amount of water sampling and monitoring within the Watershed from Mount Evans to Bear Creek Lake Park. As new points of potential contamination to the watershed are found, additional water sampling is coordinated for those sites. Information regarding the current status of water quality within the watershed can be found at the Association's Web site: www.bearcreekwatershed.org.



Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule. Also, the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. In this report, we show only those substances that were detected in our water. (A complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request.) Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less often than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We participated in the 4th stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR4) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR4 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water, in order to determine if the EPA needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data are available to the public so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Barium (ppm)	2019	2	2	0.03	NA	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2019	[4]	[4]	1.51	0.74–2.16	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	2019	4	4	0.76	0.55–1.00	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs] (ppb)	2019	60	NA	26	19–30	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2019	10	10	0.2	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2019	80	NA	31	23–42	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity ¹ (NTU)	2019	TT	NA	0.09	0.02–0.09	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2019	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	100	NA	No	Soil runoff
Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community.							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2019	1.3	1.3	0.45	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2019	15	0	7	3/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE - PART 4 (UCMR4)

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH
Bromochloroacetic Acid (ppb)	2019	1.4	0.4–2
Bromodichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	2019	2.6	2–2.9
Chlorodibromoacetic Acid (ppb)	2019	0.35	0.32–0.42
Dichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	2019	10.5	1.8–19
HAA5 (ppb)	2019	24	10–38
HAA6Br (ppb)	2019	4.3	3.3–5.3
HAA9 (ppb)	2019	29	13–44
Monochloroacetic Acid (ppb)	2019	1.7	0–3.4
Trichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	2019	12	6–16

¹Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and saving yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.



Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average): The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters. Amount Detected values for TTHMs and HAAs are reported as the highest LRAAs.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

NA: Not applicable

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Source Water Assessment

The Evergreen Metropolitan District drinking water supply is surface water rather than groundwater. This is an important distinction as different impurities potentially affect the quality of each type of water source. Bear Creek and Evergreen Lake are potentially susceptible to contamination from many sources. Runoff from roads, mining activity drainage, accidental spills from above-ground fuel storage facilities, runoff from pasture lands, and septic leach field discharges are all potential sources of pollution to our drinking water supply. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has provided us with a Source Water Assessment Report of our water supply. The report may be viewed at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/source-water-assessment-and-protection-swap>, or by contacting Chris Schauder at the Evergreen Metropolitan District at (303) 674-4112.

As recipients and users of the high-quality water that begins in the Mount Evans Wilderness, the District and customers are all stewards of Bear Creek and must remain vigilant to its protection. Please contact Chris Schauder to learn more about what you can do to help protect your drinking water.