

## 2017 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

**TX1010026 CITY OF TOMBALL**

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2017

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.

CITY OF TOMBALL is Ground Water

For more information regarding this report contact:

Name Public Works-City of Tomball

Phone 281-290-1400

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono (281) 290-1400.

### **Sources of Drinking Water**

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 and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water 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 storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the system's business office.

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as Cryptosporidium, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly, or immunocompromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; persons who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, can be particularly at risk from infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care providers. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**Information about Source Water**

TCEQ completed an assessment of your water, and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for your water assessments and protection efforts at our system contact City of Tomball Public Works (281-290-1400).

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2017	1.3	1.3	0.566	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	2017	0	15	1	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

**2017 Water Quality Test Results**

Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of individual samples	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2017	5	0 – 4.8	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	2017	0.293	0.139 - 0.293	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2017	0.75	0.34 - 0.75	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2017	0.29	0 - 0.29	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Beta/photon emitters	2017	4.2	4.2-4.2	0	4	mrem/yr	N	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.

\*EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

Combined Radium 226/228	4/13/2016	1.5	1.5 - 1.5	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
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Disinfectant Residual	Year	Average Level	Range of Level detected	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Violation	Source of Drinking Water
Chlorine	2017	1.61	0.2 - 3.5	4	4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

## Water Quality Test Results

Definitions:

The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

Action Level Goal (ALG):

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

Action Level:

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Avg:

Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:

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.

Level 1 Assessment:

A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:

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.

Level 2 Assessment:

A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL: 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.

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

MFL: million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)

na: not applicable.

**Water Quality Test Results**

mrem: millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

NTU nephelometric turbidity units (a measure of turbidity)

pCi/L picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppb: micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

ppm: milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

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

ppt parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

ppq parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter (pg/L)

**Violations Table**

<b>Lead and Copper Rule</b>			
The Lead and Copper Rule protects public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water, primarily by reducing water corrosivity. Lead and copper enter drinking water mainly from corrosion of lead and copper containing plumbing materials.			
<b>Violation Type</b>	<b>Violation Begin</b>	<b>Violation End</b>	<b>Violation Explanation</b>
FOLLOW-UP OR ROUTINE TAP M/R (LCR)	10/01/2016	08/17/18	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.  <u><b>This violation is solely administrative (reporting). All of the testing of the water shows that there is NOT a high level of lead and copper. There is not a concern with the water quality.</b></u>



## Do Your Part to Conserve Water

Water your yard thoroughly, but only as needed—usually no more than 1 inch, once a week.

Use drip irrigation for plants and gardens, and water early in the morning to minimize evaporation.

Collecting rainwater for landscape use is great for the plants and can save you water and money.

Fix faucet leaks, which can waste up to 3,000 gallons of water a year.

Check your toilet by using a leak-detection dye tablet. Leaks can waste up to 200 gallons of water a day.



***“It is the mission of the Public Works Department to strive to continuously improve the quality of life for city residents through responsive, efficient, safe, and effective delivery of services to every neighborhood and by reflecting a can do attitude with our customers.”***

Do Not	Do
Do not pour fats, oils and grease from cooking down the kitchen sink drain or garbage disposal	Collect grease in a container and dispose of it in the garbage
Do not use the sewer to dispose of food scraps	Place food scraps in the garbage for disposal with solid waste, or start a compost pile
Do not use the toilet as a wastebasket for garbage or chemicals. (These items can kill "good" bacteria used for sewage treatment and cost much more to treat)	Place a wastebasket in the bathroom to dispose of solid waste. (Disposal diapers and personal hygiene products do not belong in the sewer system)
Do not put produce stickers down the drain	Avoid planting trees with shallow, spreading root systems near your sewer lateral. Tree roots seek water sources, such as cracked sewer lines. Once the roots have penetrated the line through cracks, the roots can create a dense mat and trap materials



### FUN FACTS

- 88 miles of maintained waterlines= "352" laps around Juergens Park’s walking trail.
- 750,000 gallons of water in the largest Tomball water tower= "70" average-sized family swimming pools with water.
- All 3 water towers and 2 storage tanks have the capacity to hold 2,350,000 gallons of water= 75,200,000 water bottles

Awarded "Superior Public Drinking Water System" from the TCEQ

### Contact Us:

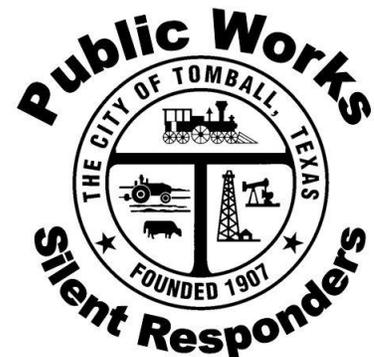
501 James St.  
Tomball, TX 77375  
281-290-1400

### Hours

Monday - Thursday  
7:45 am - 5:00 pm  
Friday  
7:45 am - 4:00 pm

Frequently Asked Questions: Please visit

<http://www.tomballtx.gov/FAQ.aspx>



**“We Lay the Ground Work”**