WE CARE ABOUT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY’S HEALTH

With all of the information in the news these days stemming from the reports of lead contamination in the nation’s drinking water supply the City of Klamath Falls believes it is important to understand there are multiple factors that contribute to the corrosive action of the water on materials containing lead in the water distribution system. Some of those factors include low pH, low alkalinity, temperature, hardness and high conductivity. Over 30 years of water quality monitoring and analysis of the City’s groundwater sources indicate our drinking water ranks very low in these variables which may contribute to lead contamination caused by the solubility of lead from pipes or pipe materials into the drinking water. Over the past 20+ years the overwhelming majority of tap water samples collected and tested from high risk locations, as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency indicated no detectable amount of lead contamination in the drinking water. It is also important to know the most recent water samples collected at the sources or wells and tested for lead contamination indicated there is no detectable amount of lead in the source water. City of Klamath Falls water system records confirm we do not have lead service lines within the water system and through our research for selecting the “at tap” sample locations as required by the Lead and Copper Rule we have found no evidence of lead service lines within customer’s piping throughout the service area.

While water quality regulations and monitoring guidelines have become more stringent our City water consistently exceeds all state and federal health standards. However it is always a good practice to let water run from the tap for 15 to 30 seconds or more before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water has gone unused for 6 hours or more.

Be assured we continue to take the necessary steps to protect you and your family being consistently vigilant in monitoring our drinking water quality.

THE CITY OF KLAMATH FALLS PROVIDES

Exceptional water for you!

Water is truly an essential part of each of our lives. We rely on water daily for a wide range of uses from growing crops to aiding in industrial processes. None of these uses is more important than our need for high quality water that we can safely drink. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to service the needs of all of our water users. If you would like additional information we encourage you to call us at 541-883-5363.

The information in this annual report is for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2017. The City of Klamath Falls routinely monitors for over 125 regulated and unregulated contaminants in all sources of your drinking water. As a result of this monitoring Klamath Falls’ water meets and exceeds Federal and State drinking water standards.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

City of Klamath Falls’ water source comes from groundwater supplied by 11 wells with depths that range from 300ft to 1000ft. This makes Klamath Falls’ water system unique in that only 1% of all groundwater supplied water systems across the nation serve more than 10,000 people. We provide water to nearly 40,000 customers. As our groundwater tends to be free of impurities and contaminates we only treat the water with a single common additive, chlorine. Chlorine is injected into the water and acts as a safety net against disease causing bacteria and viruses. Although only a small amount of natural fluoride is present in our groundwater, the City of Klamath Falls does not inject additional sodium fluoride into our drinking water.

YOUR VIEWS ARE WELCOMED

The City of Klamath Falls Water Division operations are governed by the City Council, five elected members and the Mayor. The Council meets the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the City Administration Building, 500 Klamath Avenue. The Public is welcome to attend.

Customers are still able to request a paper copy and can do so by calling Utility Billing at 541-883-5301.
**Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure**

If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure.

**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 (1-800-426-4791).**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population, including: immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons 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 (1-800-426-4791).

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. The City of Klamath Falls is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but 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 drinking 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](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

**Message from the EPA**

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**Is my water hard?**

If substantial amounts of Calcium or Magnesium, both nonmetallic minerals, are present in drinking water, the water is said to be hard. Hard water does not dissolve soap readily making lather for washing and cleaning difficult. Conversely, water containing little Calcium or Magnesium is called soft water.

**What types of contaminants are tested and regulated?**

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 compounds during the disinfection process.

**City of Klamath Falls**

**P.O. Box 237**

Klamath Falls, OR 97601

www.ci.klamath-falls.or.us

541.883.5363

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