

Your Award Winning Water

2016
Best Tasting Water
in Alaska

2017
Wastewater Operator
of the Year

2017
Source Water System
of the Year



This report contains information about your drinking water:

where it comes from, results from quality testing in 2017 and how you can help protect your water supply.

We are committed to providing you with a clean and dependable supply of drinking water.

We are proud to report that the water delivered to our customers meets or exceeds all federal and state standards.

The City of Homer's drinking water clean and safe. It's also Alaska's best tasting water!

Awarded in 2016 by the Alaska Rural Water Association, its clarity, taste and aroma topped the competition.



What Makes Our Water Taste So Good?

It starts with working proactively to protect our water source—the 37-acre Bridge Creek Reservoir and its watershed—from pollution.

The soils and native vegetation surrounding Bridge Creek absorb and filter rainfall and snowmelt on their way to the reservoir. However, the land's capacity to absorb and filter water is reduced when land is cleared and compacted for development.

To protect against increased sedimentation and pollution that could deteriorate the quality of our only drinking water source, the area was designated a Watershed Protection District. Land use activities are governed by specific provisions that benefit the health, safety, and welfare of City residents (and other customers of the City's water system).

The City's commitment to protecting our watershed earned the **Source Water System of the Year** award from the Alaska Rural Water Association, naming Homer a model for other communities sourcing their drinking water from surface water.

We follow that up with cutting-edge treatment techniques at our water treatment plant and with diligent maintenance of three water storage tanks, 53.5 miles of distribution pipes and 413 fire hydrants to make sure water gets to customers safely and efficiently for both general use and fire emergencies.

You Can Help Protect Water Quality Too!

When recreating at the reservoir, remember it is our only source for drinking water. Help protect it!

- Motorized boats are not allowed in the reservoir;
- Pick up your pet's poop;
- No camping, campfires or shooting, please.

Even when you are further away from the reservoir, your actions can impact our water resources. Many everyday products contain hazardous substances that, when they get into the environment, can endanger both our drinking water and the waters of Kachemak Bay. Stormwater can pick up these substances and be a source of pollution.

Ultimately, a treatment plant can't solve stormwater pollution, nor is our reservoir or the ocean big enough to dilute the problem. So what can we do?

Luckily, since runoff comes from small, individual sources in all parts of the watershed, it is a problem that residents can help prevent with small, individual actions.

- Dispose of hazardous wastes at the Solid Waste Transfer Station rather than dumping them outside or down storm drains. Learn more at <http://www.kpb.us/swd-waste/about-solidwaste>.
- Eliminate or cut down on pesticides and herbicides; use organic fertilizers.
- Rather than flushing unused medications down the toilet, dispose of them (anonymously and for free) in the drug drop box in the Homer Police Station's lobby.

City of Homer Drinking Water Monitoring Results

The City of Homer routinely monitors your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table below shows the results of our monitoring from January 1st to December 31st, 2017, unless otherwise noted. The state requires monitoring for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

Test results indicate excellent water quality that meets and exceeds all Federal and State requirements.

2017 Water Quality Test Results						
Contaminant	Sample Date	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG
Volatile Organic Contaminants (Locational Running Annual Average)						
Total Trihalomethanes	2017	No	64.7 LRAA BW 59.3 LRAA Spit Range: 37.6 - 83	ug/L	80	N/A
Total Haloacetic Acids	2017	No	31.7 LRAA BW 37.2 LRAA Spit Range: 15.1 - 53	ug/L	60	N/A
Radioactive Contaminants						
Gross Beta	2013	No	2.4	pCi/L	50	0
Radium 226/228	2013	No	0.043		5	
Gross Alpha	2013	No	0.85		15	
Microbiological Contaminants						
Turbidity	1/30/2017	No	0.25	NTU	0.3	N/A
Inorganic Contaminants						
Barium	2011	No	26.5	ug/L	2000	2000
Chromium	2011	No	0.453	ug/L	100	100
Total Thallium	2011	No	0.0839	ug/L	2	0.5
Nitrate	2016	No	0.159	mg/L	10	10
Arsenic	2012	No	0.221	ug/L	10	0
Lead*	2017	No	0.0077	mg/L	.015	0
Copper*	2017	No	0.16	mg/L	1.3	1.3
Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring						
Manganese	10/21/15	No	36	ug/L	N/A	N/A
Strontium	10/21/15	No	38	ug/L	N/A	N/A
Chlorate	10/21/15	No	79	ug/L	N/A	N/A

Definitions:

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 health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

LRAA

Locational Running Annual Average: the average and range of sample analytical results from Best Western (BW) and Spit locations during the previous four calendar quarters.

N/A

Not applicable.

AL

Action Level: the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

TT

Treatment Technique: a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. For example, we are required to use filtration technology to remove turbidity from our water.

Turbidity

Suspended material or cloudiness measured in NTUs.

NTU

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit: Units of turbidity indicated by an instrument that measures refracted light through a water sample.

Units of Measure:

Ppm or mg/L

Parts per million or milligrams per liter: parts per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

pCi/L

Radioactive measurement: 1 trillionth of a Curie.

*Violation determination is based on the 90th percentile. Results of 20 samples ranged from non-detected to 0.00373 ppm of lead and 0.0143 to 0.157 ppm of copper.

Ppb or ug/L

Parts per billion or micrograms per liter: parts per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Substances that may be found in your drinking water

The sources of any drinking water—tap and bottled water alike—include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. While the City of Homer has taken steps to protect the land in the Bridge Creek Reservoir's watershed, as water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and in some cases, radioactive material. It can also pick up 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 septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metal, 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 byproducts 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 by the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To protect public health, water treatment plants reduce these contaminants to safe levels established by regulation. However, 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.

Special Information for Vulnerable Populations

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons with organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections.

These people should seek advice from their health care providers. Guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available by calling the EPA/CDC Safe Drinking Water Hotline: **800-426-4791.**



To deliver the highest water quality possible, the Public Works Department flushes the water system annually between April & September.

Flushing the water main is a routine operation done to clean and maintain our water system. During this activity, water is forced through underground water mains at high speed and flushed out of fire hydrants to remove accumulated sediment.

This flushing is done until the water coming through the main runs clear. At times you may experience low water pressure. If your water becomes cloudy or discolored, flush your water until color returns to normal. If you have questions, call Public Works for assistance: 235-3170.

We would also like our customers to know that we are currently in the process of upgrading all the water meters within the system. The change out will be phased in over the next 4 years, with an expected completion date in 2021.

The new Orion ME Water meters have some unique advantages over our past models. They can hold 6 months of readings, allowing you and the Meter Tech to more easily figure out water issues.

The new metering system will be able show water usage down to the minute, for up to 6 months. If you have a leak, it can show when it started, how long it leaked and how much water was used. It will also show when the water leak was shut off, and a total amount of usage during specific time periods.

