

City of Rhome

TTHM Issues

General Information:

THIS IS NOT AN EMERGENCY

If it had been, you would have been notified IMMEDIATELY.

Some people who drink water containing Trihalomethanes (THM) in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system and MAY have an increased risk of getting cancer.

If you are concerned about your health we recommend that you contact your health care provider.

Why do we have THM's in our water system?

85% of our water comes from Walnut Creek SUD which produces water from Lake Bridgeport.

All lake water contains compounds known as total organic carbon (TOC). Walnut Creek SUD has a water treatment plant that applies chlorine containing compounds to treat the lake water. The reaction between the TOC's and chlorine containing compounds results in the formation of THM's. Walnut Creek SUD's treatment plant is designed to remove most of the TOC's and to also control the formation of THM's.

The city purchases treated drinking water from Walnut Creek SUD.

To kill pathogenic microorganisms Walnut Creek SUD and the City add chlorine containing compounds to the water.

The addition of chlorine containing compounds results in disinfection byproducts such as THM's.

Reproductive Issues:

According to the EPA, current reproductive and developmental health effects data do NOT support a conclusion at this time as to whether exposure to chlorinated drinking water or disinfection byproducts causes adverse developmental or reproductive health effects, but support a potential health concern.

What we are doing?

Since the city purchases treated drinking water from Walnut Creek SUD, we are working closely with WCSUD to assure that the water we are receiving from WCSUD contains THM levels of less than 80 parts per billion. We are also continuing to do the following:

- To prevent the possibility of pathogenic microorganisms entering into our distribution system, we are closely monitoring the chlorine disinfection levels that we are maintaining in our distribution system.
 - We are flushing large water mains to remove any water that has the potential of forming THM's in excess of 80 ppb.
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Additional information:

Disinfection is a crucial way to protect the public from pathogens. Unfortunately, at the same time those disinfectants are inactivating pathogens, they are also reacting with naturally occurring disinfection by-products precursors (DBP-Ps) to form disinfection by-products (DBPs). One (DBP) is Trihalomethanes (THM)