

We are pleased to report that our water is safe and meets, or is better than, state and federal standards.

Our municipal water supply monitoring schedule is based in part on a source water vulnerability assessment prepared by the utility. A copy of this study is available at City Hall. The municipal well water is vulnerable to contaminant sources in close proximity to the well. One potential contaminant source is unused, unsafe, and non-complying private wells located within the city. As of June 30, 2003, no private wells are permitted within the city limits, except in cases where municipal services are not available. The utility has completed a survey identifying the water supply sources and wellhead protection area for River Falls Municipal water system. From this, a wellhead protection ordinance was developed and formally adopted in 2001.

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

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which provides 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 and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

If you have any questions concerning your water utility, please contact Ron Groth, Water/Wastewater Superintendent at 715-426-3428. Drinking water is a complex business. If you want to learn more please attend any of our regularly scheduled Utility Advisory Board meetings. They are held on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

*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 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 can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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 who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune systems 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.

## Lead

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. River Falls Water Utility 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 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 (800-426-4791) or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## YOUR WATER SOURCE

River Falls has a ground water supply with five production wells in two different aquifers. All are located within the city limits. The Prairie du Chien/Jordan (Trempealeau) Aquifer is the major municipal groundwater source in the region. Two wells are cased into the Jordan Aquifer. Two wells are cased into the Prairie du Chien, but not through it, and therefore get some water from both formations.

## Units in the Table

- ppm** (parts per million), or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
- ppb** (parts per billion), or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
- MFL** (million fibers per liter)
- mrem/year** (millirems per year) (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
- NTU** (Nephelometric Turbidity Units)
- pCi/l** (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.
- ppt** (parts per trillion), or nanograms per liter



## Definitions

**Maximum Contaminant Level (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.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (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.

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

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (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 Goal (MRDLG):** 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.

Your water was tested for many contaminants last year. We are allowed to monitor for some contaminants less frequently than once a year. The following tables list only those contaminants which were detected in your water. If a contaminant was detected last year, it will appear in the following tables without a sample date. If the contaminant was not monitored last year, but was detected within the last five years, it will appear in the tables below along with the sample date.

Contaminant (units)	Site	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2015)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>								
HAA5 (ppb)	D30	60	60	2	2		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	D30	80	0	3.2	3.2		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppb)	D35	60	60	2	2		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	D35	80	0	4.8	4.8		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
ARSENIC (ppb)		10	n/a	1	1		No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
BARIUM (ppm)		2	2	0.008	0.008		No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
FLUORIDE (ppm)		4	4	3.8	3.8		No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
NICKEL (ppb)		100		1.2000	1.2000		No	Nickel occurs naturally in soils, ground water and surface waters and is often used in electroplating, stainless steel and alloy products.
NITRATE (NO3-N) (ppm)		10	10	0.32	0.03 - 0.32		No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
SODIUM (ppm)		n/a	n/a	2.40	2.10 - 2.40	6/11/2014	No	n/a
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
GROSS ALPHA, EXCL. R & U (pCi/l)		15	0	4.2	2.7 - 4.2	6/11/2014	No	Erosion of natural deposits
RADIUM, (226 + 228) (pCi/l)		5	0	4.2	2.7 - 4.2	6/11/2014	No	Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS ALPHA, INCL. R & U (n/a)		n/a	n/a	4.2	2.7 - 4.2	6/11/2014	No	Erosion of natural deposits
COMBINED URANIUM (ug/l)		30	0	1.5	1.5	6/29/2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>								
ETHYLBENZENE (ppb)		700	700	0.6	0.0 - 1.1		No	Discharge from petroleum refineries
STYRENE (ppb)		100	100	0.1	0.0 - 0.1		No	Discharge from rubber and plastic factories; leaching from landfills
XYLENES, TOTAL (ppm)		10	10	0.0023	0.0000-0.0045		No	Discharge from petroleum factories; discharge from chemical factories
<b>Unregulated Contaminants</b>								
Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. EPA required us to participate in this monitoring.								
Contaminant (units)		Level Found		Range		Sample Date (if prior to 2015)		
SULFATE (ppm)		16.00		16.00				
1,2,4-TRIMETHYLBENZENE (ppb)		0.42		0.42				
1,3,5-TRIMETHYLBENZENE (ppb)		0.12		0.12				
<b>Lead and Copper</b>								
Contaminant (units)	Action Level	MCLG	90th Percentile Level Found	# of Results		Sample Date (if prior to 2015)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
COPPER (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	0.2600	0 of 30 results were above the action level.		8/26/2014	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
LEAD (ppb)	AL=15	0	0.90	0 of 30 results were above the action level		8/19/2014	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

### Important Information About the Fluoride Level

This is an alert about your drinking water and a cosmetic dental problem that might affect children under nine years of age. At low levels, fluoride can help prevent cavities, but children drinking water containing more than 2 milligrams per liter (mg/l) of fluoride may develop cosmetic discoloration of their permanent teeth known as dental fluorosis. The drinking water provided by your community water system, River Falls Water Utility, had an exceedance of the secondary standard. A sample taken in September 2015 had a fluoride level of 3.8 mg/l. Subsequent samples taken in 2015 were all under the secondary contaminant level of 2.0 mg/l. Dental fluorosis, in its moderate or severe forms, may result in a brown staining and/or pitting of the permanent teeth. This problem occurs only in developing teeth, before they erupt from the gums. Children under nine should be provided with alternative sources of drinking

water or water that has been treated to remove the fluoride to avoid the possibility of staining and pitting of their permanent teeth. You may also want to contact your dentist about proper use by young children of fluoride-containing products. Older children and adults may safely drink the water. Drinking water containing more than 4 mg/L of fluoride, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's drinking water standard, can increase your risk of developing bone disease. Your drinking water does not contain more than 4 mg/l of fluoride, but we are required to notify you when we discover that the fluoride levels in your drinking water exceed 2 mg/l because of this cosmetic dental problem. For more information, please call Greg Koehler of River Falls Water Utility at 715-426-3492. Some home water treatment units are also available to remove fluoride from drinking water. To learn more about available home water treatment units, you may call NSF International at 1-877-8-NSF-HELP.