

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.
Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Alpine Peaks Water System Had Levels of Coliform Bacteria Above the Drinking Water Standard

The Alpine Peaks Water System recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what you should do, what happened, and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. We took 16 samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria during September 2016. Four of those samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than 1 sample per month may do so before triggering a violation.

What should I do?

- You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.
- This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. *Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.*
- Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the distribution system pipes. Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. **We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing, and further testing shows that this problem has been resolved.**
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791.
- If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

What happened?

A routine total coliform sample was collected on September 6, 2016 and came back positive for total coliform. The five required follow up samples were collected on September 8, 2016, of which three samples came back positive for total coliform. **All samples were negative for E. Coli.** In addition all samples taken from the Spring source were negative indicating the problem was most likely in the distribution piping in the roads.

What was done?

On September 9, 2016 District staff introduced chlorine into the system to try and eliminate the presence and source of the total coliform bacteria. Chlorinated water was flushed into the entire system and to all hydrants and street dead ends. This chlorinated water was allowed to remain in the system for approximately 72 hours and was then flushed out gradually reducing chlorine levels to 0. Since September 8, 2016 10 additional samples have been collected, and all have been negative for any bacteria. Five additional samples will be collected in the month of October.

At this point the District has not determined the exact cause of the source of the total coliform bacteria, however water stagnation may have simply been the cause. The District has replaced the flushing dead end valves at the end of Chamonix and Kitzbuhel Roads and has added an air release valve on Verbier Road. If stagnation was the cause, these improvements should greatly decrease the risk of these locations stagnating again.

We apologize for the temporary chlorination of your water system, but it was necessary protect the health and safety of our customers. The Alpine Peaks Water system is the District's only routinely unchlorinated water system. To try to continue to maintain this system as unchlorinated, the District may also implement annual or semi-annual chlorination and flushing as additional protection from this situation recurring in the future. The chlorination levels will be much lower during these maintenance periods than what was experienced this past September. For more information, please contact Tony Laliotis, Director of Utilities at 530 580-6053 or by email at: tlaliotis@tcpud.org

Lastly, in the future, if you would like to receive this correspondence electronically and that we may reach out to you in a more expeditious fashion, please send us an email including your local (Tahoe) physical address. Please address the email to: kalthof@tcpud.org

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

Secondary Notification Requirements

Upon receipt of notification from a person operating a public water system, the following notification must be given within 10 days [Health and Safety Code Section 116450(g)]:

- RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS OR MANAGERS (including nursing homes and care facilities): Must notify tenants.

This notice is being sent to you by the Tahoe City Public Utility District – Alpine Peaks Water System

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