

# 2018 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

(Consumer Confidence Report)

**HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 217**  
**PWS ID No. TX1011983**      **Phone No: 281-895-8547**

**WATER SOURCES:** 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 contaminants that may be present in source water:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, 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 by-products 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 be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the system's business office. You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as Cryptosporidium, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly, or immunocompromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; persons who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, can be particularly at risk from infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care providers. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infections by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

In the Water Loss Audit submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for the time period of January 2018 – December 2018, our system lost an estimated 6,308,113 gallons of water. Overall, our system accounted for approximately 90.91 % of the water produced during that period. If you have any questions about the water loss audit, please call 281.895.8547.

## Public Participation Opportunities

**Date:** 4th Tuesday of Each Month  
**Time:** 7:00 PM  
**Location:** 12248 T. C. Jester Blvd.  
Houston, Texas 77067  
**Phone No:** 281-895-8547

To learn about future public meetings (concerning your drinking water), or to request to schedule one, please call us.

## En Español

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al tel. (281)895-8547.

## Information about Source Water Assessments

The TCEQ completed an assessment of your source water and results indicated that some of your sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for your water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detection of these contaminants may be found in this Consumer Confidence Report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, contact 281-895-8547.

For more information about your sources of water, please refer to the Source Water Assessment Viewer available at the following URL:  
<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/gis/swaview>.

Further details about sources and source water assessments are available in Drinking Water Watch at the following URL:  
<http://dww2.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/>.

### Secondary Constituents

Many constituents (such as calcium, sodium, or iron) which are often found in drinking water can cause taste, color, and odor problems. The taste and odor constituents are called secondary constituents and are regulated by the State of Texas, not the EPA. These constituents are not causes for health concern. Therefore, secondaries are not required to be reported in this document but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

### About The Following Pages

The pages that follow list all federally regulated or monitored contaminants, which have been found in your drinking water. The U.S. EPA requires water systems to test for up to 97 contaminants.

### Water Quality Test Results

Definitions:

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:	The level on contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:	The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology
Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or 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.
Maximum residual disinfectant level or 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.
Level 1 Assessment:	A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
Level 2 Assessment:	A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
Action Level:	The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Action Level Goal (ALG):	The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.
Avg:	Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.
mrem:	millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
ppm:	Milligrams per liter or parts per million – or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.
ppb:	Micrograms per liter or parts per billion – or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
na:	Not applicable.
Definitions:	The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.
TCR:	Total coliform rule
MFL	Million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)
NTU	Nephelometric turbidity units (a measure of turbidity)
pCi/L	picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
ppt:	parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
ppq:	parts per quadrillion, or pictograms per liter (pg/L)
ppt:	parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
Treatment Technique or TT:	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

### Lead and Copper

#### Definitions:

**Action Level Goal (ALG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is not known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

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

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	9/27/16	1.3	1.3	0.107	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	9/27/16	0	15	0.612	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

“Required Additional Health Information of 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 the service lines and home building. This water supply 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.”

**Regulated Contaminants**

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2018	19	13.7 – 24.6	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

\* The value in the Highest Level or Average Detected column is the highest average of all HAA5 sample results collected at a location over a year'

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2018	15	7.8 – 20.5	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
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\* The value in the Highest Level or Average Detected column is the highest average of all TTHM sample results collected at a location over a year'

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	1/24/2011	0.0673	0.0673 – 0.0673	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	1/24/2011	0.32	0.32 – 0.32	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2018	1	0.84 – 0.84	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen]	7/6/2015	0.02	0.02 – 0.02	1	1	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

Synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Atrazine	7/3/2012	0.56	0.56 – 0.56	3	3	ppb	N	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.

**Disinfectant Residuals**

Disinfectant Residuals	Year	Average Level	Range of Levels Detected	MRDL	MRDLG	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (Total)	2018	3.18	1.5-3.8	4	4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

**\*\* In 2018, Harris County Municipal Utility District No 217 received water through Central Harris County Regional Water Authority. The following tables contain all the chemical contaminants which have been found in their water.**

**Regulated Contaminants**

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
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Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2018	16	16.1 – 16.1	No goal for the total.	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
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\* The value in the Highest Level or Average Detected column is the highest average of all HAA5 sample results collected at a location over a year.

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2018	11	11.2 – 11.2	No goal for the total.	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
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\* The value in the Highest Level or Average Detected column is the highest average of all TTHM sample results collected at a location over a year<sup>1</sup>

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	1/24/2011	0.0673	0.0673 – 0.0673	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	1/24/2011	0.32	0.32 – 0.32	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2018	0.09	0.09 – 0.09	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen]	8/12/2015	0.03	0.03 – 0.03	1	1	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

Synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Atrazine	7/3/2012	0.56	0.56 – 0.56	3	3	ppb	N	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.

**\*\* In 2018, Harris County Municipal Utility District No 217 received water through Harris County MUD 200 Cranbrook, which purchases water from Central Harris County Regional Water Authority, Harris County MUD 205 and Harris County MUD 399. The following tables contain all the chemical contaminants which have been found in their water.**

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	8/2/2017	1.3	1.3	0.16	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	8/2/2017	0	15	1.6	1	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

## Regulated Contaminants

Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*	2018	15	0 – 11.5	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

\* The value in the Highest Level or Average Detected column is the highest average of all HAA5 sample results collected at a location over a year.

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2018	12	0 – 11.71	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
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The value in the Highest Level or Average Detected column is the highest average of all TTHM sample results collected at a location over a year.

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic	2018	6	0-9.1	0	10	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.

While your drinking water meets EPA standards for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Barium	2018	0.0466	0.0658-0.466	2	2	Ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Cyanide	2/9/2017	110	90-110	200	200	ppb	N	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories.
Fluoride	2018	0.26	0.11-0.26	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2018	1	0.01 – 1.05	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (Measured as Nitrogen)	1/22/2015	0.23	0.01 – 0.23	1	1	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits

<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>	<b>Collection Date</b>	<b>Highest Level Detected</b>	<b>Range of Levels Detected</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Violation</b>	<b>Likely Source of Contamination</b>
Beta/positron emitters	2018	4.3	4-4.3	0	50	pCi/L*	N	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.

\*EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

Combined Radium 226/228	2018	1.5	1.5 – 1.5	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
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<b>Synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides</b>	<b>Collection Date</b>	<b>Highest Level Detected</b>	<b>Range of Levels Detected</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Violation</b>	<b>Likely Source of Contamination</b>
Atrazine	2017	0.13	0.13-0.13	3	3	ppb	N	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.
Simazine	2018	0.15	0-0.15	4	4	ppb	N	Herbicide runoff.