Shelburne Falls Fire District

Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

2023

Public Water Supply #1268000

121 STATE STREET SHELBURNE FALLS, MA 01370

Phone 413-625-6392 Fax 413-625-6718

The Water Commissioners meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month and more information about this report can be obtained by calling Water Superintendent Rebekah McDermott at 413-625-6392

Shelburne Falls Fire District Water Department (SFFD) 2021 Projects and upcoming 2022 Projects

- In the Spring of 2023, a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project replaced the remainder of the 1912 10" cast iron water main on **Bridge St**. from Baker Avenue to Mechanic St. with a new 10" ductile iron water main. All the buildings located within the project area received a 6" sprinkler service and upsized water pipes to better service the businesses and residences.
- In the fall of 2023, the Water Department replaced the 8" asbestos cement water main at the upper end of North Street with a new 8" water main. This project includes upsizing the residential services to 1" and adding another hydrant. The Town of Buckland will then utilize a Mass Department of Transportation grant to complete road and sidewalk improvements to the street in the spring of 2024.
- The Water Department upgraded the water main for Halligan Avenue in 2023 replacing a old 1.5 " galvanized iron main with a 2" plastic main to improve flow to the households on Halligan Avenue. In 2024, we will finish upgrading the water main to Rt. 2.
- We really appreciate when residents report water in streets or lawns that seem out of place and call us to investigate. Also, if you **HEAR** hissing that sounds like a hose spraying or your toilet is running constantly, you have a **WATER LEAK**! Call us and we'll help you **FIND IT** and **FIX IT**!
- The Water Department Flushes Hydrants twice a year in May and October. Please look for our signs and a notice in the Greenfield Recorder to alert residents to low pressure and cloudy water if we are in your neighborhood flushing that day.

Water Sources for the Shelburne Falls Fire District (SFFD)

The Shelburne Falls Fire District serves approximately 2000 people in portions of Buckland, Colrain and Shelburne. The groundwater supply comes from two wells (Well #1-03G and Well #2-02G) located between Call Road and the North River in Colrain. The treated water is pumped to storage tanks in Shelburne and Buckland. In order to help protect water quality, the SFFD owns about 14 acres around the wells. A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) was completed in 2003 with help from the Mass Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and is available for inspection.

The SFFD well water has a natural pH of 6.7. Many drinking water sources in New England are naturally corrosive (i.e. they have a pH of less than 7.0). So, the water supply has a tendency to corrode and dissolve the metal piping as it flows through. This not only damages the pipes but can also add harmful metals such as lead and copper to the water. For this reason it is beneficial to add chemicals that make the water neutral or slightly alkaline. The Shelburne Falls Fire District adds sodium hydroxide (NaOH) to its water. This adjusts the water to a non-corrosive pH. All chemicals used are approved by one of the following organizations: National Sanitation Foundation (Now known as NSF International), or UL, both accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). Chemicals also have to meet performance standards established by the American Water Works Association.

Drinking Water is Regulated for Contaminants to Keep People Safe

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and MassDEP prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA and Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) 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.

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 system 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. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline. (1-800-426-4791)

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 18 materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Shelburne Falls Fire District 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

Contaminants that may be present in source water (wells and reservoirs) 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 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 runoff and septic systems.

The SFFD samples Wells #1 and #2 and the Storage Tanks for coliform bacteria every month and many other contaminants on a quarterly schedule throughout the year. These include: Asbestos, Inorganics, Sodium, Iron, Lead, Copper, Manganese, Nitrate, Nitrite, Perchlorate, Per and Polyfluoroalkayl Substances (PFAS), Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOC's) and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's).
If you don't see it in the table below it was **NOT DETECTED (ND)** in the well water we sampled. We are required to report any detection of a contaminant no matter how small.

Helpful 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.

SMCL: Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level

ORSG—Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guidelines: This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which, adverse health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.

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

90th Percentile: Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level. This number is compared to the action level to determine lead and copper compliance.

Ppm/ppb: parts per million/billion

Mg/L: Milligrams per liter

MFL: Million fibers per liter

Regulated Contaminant	**MCL – Maximum Contaminant Level**	**MCLG— Maximum Contaminant Level Goal**	**Level Found**	**Range of Detections**	**Violations**	**Date**	**Possible Source of Contaminant**
Barium (ppm)	2.0	2.0	0.014	0.014	No	11/8/2023	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.23	0.23	No	11/7/2023	Run off from fertilizer
Asbestos (MFL)	7	0	<0.18	<0.18	No	6/23/2022	Asbestos Cement (AC) water pipe
Coliform (monthly)	1	0	0	Absent	No	Monthly	Naturally present in environment.
Secondary Contaminant	**SMCL**		**Level Found**	**Range of Detections**	**Violations**	**Date**	**Possible Source of Contaminant**
Iron (ppm)	300		0.011-1.07	0.011-1.07	No	4/7/2023	Natural and industrial sources pipes
Manganese (ppm)	50		No Detect	No Detect	No	4/7/2023	Erosion of natural deposits
Unregulated Contaminant	**ORSG Recommendation**		**Level Found**	**Range of Detections**	**Violations**	**Date**	**Possible Source Of Contaminant**
Sodium (ppm)	20		12.5-12.7	12.5-12.7	No	11/8/2023	Natural Deposits & NaOH for pH Treatment (mineral salt)
Nickel (ppm)	0.1		0.002	0.002	No	11/8/2023	Discharge from domestic wastewater, landfills, and mining and smelting operations
Lead and Copper Results 2019	**ACTION LEVEL**	**MCLG**	**# of sites above action level**	**Range of Detections**	**90th % - Average of samples.**	**Date**	**Possible Source of Contaminant**
Lead (ppb)	15	0	0 sites of 10 None	0 — 2.9	2.8	Sept. 2022	Household plumbing corrosion
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0 sites of 10 None	0.038 — 0.163	0.118	Sept. 2022	Household plumbing corrosion