Shelburne Falls Fire District

Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

2025

Public Water Supply #1268000

121 STATE STREET SHELBURNE FALLS, MA 01370

Phone 413-625-6392 Fax 413-625-6718 www.shelburnefallsfiredistrict.org

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) 2025 Projects and upcoming 2026 Projects

- The **Bridge of Flowers** received a much-needed repair of the North wall and a new 12" ductile iron water main to supply the Town of Buckland with drinking water. A new hydrant and two new valves to control the water main in the case of an emergency were also installed.
- The Halligan Avenue water main project installed a new 2" water main should be finished in the Spring of 2026.
- The Water Department located many service leaks over the past year. We really appreciate it when residents see any water that comes to the surface in their lawns or driveways 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**!
- If you have lower pressure than usual this could also be the indication of a leak. The more leaks we find and repair the better the system runs and the less water goes to waste!
- 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

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. 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 byproducts 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 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).

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). • 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 byproducts 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

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and home plumbing. The Shelburne Falls Fire District (SFFD) is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water, and wish to have your water tested, **contact SFFD at 413 625-6302**.

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), Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's), Gross Alpha Particle, and Radium 226-228. 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.

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): These standards are developed to protect aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

Unregulated Contaminants: Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated monitoring is to Assist EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

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

Regulated Contaminant	**MCL – Maximum**	**MCLG— Maximum**	**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	0.28—0.29	0.27	No	1/8/2025	Run off from fertilizer
Asbestos (MFL)	7	0	<0.18	<0.18	No	6/23/2022	Asbestos Cement (AC) water pipe
Coliform	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		No Detect - 0.26	No Detect - 0.26	No	4/10/2025	Natural and industrial sources pipes
Manganese	50		No Detect	No Detect	No	4/10/2025	Erosion of natural deposits
Unregulated	**ORSG**		**Level**	**Range of**	**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 Treat-
Nickel (ppm)	0.1		0.002	0.002	No	11/8/2023	Discharge from domestic wastewater,
Lead and Copper	**ACTION LEVEL**	**MCLG**	**# of sites above ac-**	**Range of Detections**	**90th % - Average of**	**Date**	**Possible Source of Contaminant**
Lead (ppb)	15	0	0 sites of 10 = None	0 — 2.7	2.3	Sept. 2025	Household plumbing corrosion
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0 sites of 10 = None	0.026 — 0.226	0.218	Sept. 2025	Household plumbing corrosion