

CITY OF BRIDGE CITY (PWS 1810001)
P. O. Box 846 ~ 260 Rachal
Bridge City, Texas 77611 – 0846
409-735-6801 www.bridgecitytex.com
Office Hours - Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

THIS REPORT WILL BE
PROVIDED TO OUR
CUSTOMERS ON A
ANNUAL BASIS AS
REQUIRED OF ALL CITIES
BY THE UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY

2010 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT (Consumer Confidence Report)

SPECIAL NOTICE

Required language for ALL community public water supplies:

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; those 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 provider. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426 - 4791.

En Espanol

Este informe incluye informacion importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre este informe en espanol, favor de llamar al tel. (409) 735 - 6801 para hablar con una persona bilingue en espanol.

Public Participation Opportunities:

Date: July 19, 2011
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: Bridge City, City Hall
Phone No.: 409-735-6801

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

OUR DRINKING WATER IS REGULATED

This report is a summary of the quality of the water we provide our customers. The analysis was made by using the data from the most recent U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required tests and is presented in the attached pages. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what is in your drinking water.

SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER

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 before treatment 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Where do we get our drinking water?

The source of drinking water used by the CITY OF BRIDGE CITY is GROUND WATER. A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water source(s) is currently being updated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This information describes the susceptibility and types of constituents that may come into contact with your drinking water source based on human activities and natural conditions. The information contained in the assessment allows us to focus our source water protection strategies. Some of this source water assessment information will be available on Texas Drinking Water Watch at <http://dww.tceq.state.tx.us/DWW/>. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, please contact us.

ALL drinking water may contain contaminants.

When drinking water meets federal standards there may not be any health based benefits to purchasing bottled water or point of use devices. 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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 concerns. Therefore, secondaries are not required to be reported in this document but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

REQUIRED ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION FOR 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. 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>.

ABBREVIATIONS:

NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Units
MFL – million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)
pCi/L – picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
ppm – parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb – parts per billion, or micrograms per liter
ppt – parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
ppq – parts per quadrillion, or picograms 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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)

The highest level of 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 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 contamination.

Avg: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples

ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter – or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water

ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter – 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.

2010 Regulated Contaminants Detected

Lead and Copper

Definitions:

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.

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 th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	09/19/2007	1.3	1.3	0.201		ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	09/19/2007	0	15	2.7		ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

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)*	2010	14	10.4 - 25.9	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHm)*	2010	78	45 - 133	No goal for the 4 total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
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Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	01/23/2008	0.3	0.0463 - 0.3	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2010	0.01	0 - 0.01	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

HELPFUL GUIDE TO INDOOR AND OUTDOOR WATER USE

START SAVING WATER AND MONEY TODAY

Don't waste water waiting for it to heat up!

Insulate your hot water pipes. It will take less time for the water to heat; therefore, less water will be wasted. Another way to save water that you may consider, is installing an instant water heater in your sink. This will also eliminate the waste of waiting for tap water to heat up.

You can save water by putting high efficiency aerators on all of your faucets.

Most faucets flow at a rate of 4 to 6 gallons per minute. Low-flow aerators cut that flow in half. You end up saving 5 to 10 gallons of water each day!

******A leaky toilet can waste more than 20,000 gallons of water a year!******

Try the toilet leak test: Take the lid off your toilet tank and drop a couple of food coloring drops into the tank. Wait ten minutes. If you have a leak, the bowl water will change colors. It may be a bad flapper, it can be replaced inexpensively!

Use a high-efficiency showerhead to save water!

The last time you took a shower, you used about 42 gallons of water. A high-efficiency showerhead installed can save a family of four nearly 34,500 gallons of water each year.

The Source	Water Wasted
Leaking Toilet	90 Gallons per Day 2,738 Gallons per Month 32,850 Gallons per Year
10 Minute Shower with Inefficient Shower Head 2 People in Household	30 Gallons per Shower 420 Gallons per Week 21,840 Gallons per Year
Dripping Faucet (2 drips per second)	A Slow Steady Drip (.72 Gallons per Hour): 17 Gallons per Day 526 Gallons per Month 6,307 Gallons per Year

When to water my lawn and outside plants?

Most landscapes get more water than they need. You can keep landscaping alive even during the worst summer heat with these practical tips:

- ▶ Water lawns only when needed. Putting 1.5 inches of water on your lawn every 5 to 7 days will encourage deep root systems and make for healthier grass.
- ▶ Use native or adapted plants that do well on little water.
- ▶ Mulch plants to hold in moisture and limit weed growth.
- ▶ Install efficient irrigation systems. Avoid sprinklers with fine sprays, which lose much of their water to wind and evaporation.
- ▶ Use drip irrigation systems for bedded plants, trees, and shrubs.
- ▶ Adjust automatic sprinkler heads so that they water your landscaping, not the pavement or the sidewalks.
- ▶ Water lawns during the early morning or evening hours to prevent evaporation.
- ▶ Never water on windy days.

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****ALL GARBAGE AND RECYCLING SHOULD BE
OUT BY 7 A.M. ON YOUR PICK-UP DAY****

**CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE HELD ON 1ST AND 3RD TUESDAY EACH MONTH
AT 6:00 PM AT CITY HALL IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Evacuations and Special Health Care Needs: *Dial 2-1-1 to register for a ride*

**ADOPT A PET TODAY – VISIT YOUR LOCAL SHELTER OR HUMANE SOCIETY SAVE LIVES -
SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PETS**

CITY WEBSITE: WWW.BRIDGECITYTEX.COM

Bills are due and payable upon receipt. If payment is not **received** at the City on or before the 18th of each month, the bill will be considered delinquent and a fee added. **PLEASE ALLOW AT LEAST 10 DAYS IF MAILING OR PAYING WITH A BILL PAY SERVICE.** If the balance is not **received** at the City on or before the 28th of the subsequent month, your service will be disconnected and an additional fee will be added. You may request no more than 4 extensions to pay per calendar year – an additional 14 days can be granted without additional fees. A drive-thru depository is available for your convenience 24 hours a day. Direct withdrawal from your bank account on the 13th of each month is also available. All utility bills from the City are mailed by the 4th of each month. **Failure to receive a bill does not entitle payment without penalty.** Credit and Debit cards are accepted at City Hall – phone payments can not be accepted.

**Fair Housing Public Service Announcement
Public Service Announcement:
Fair Housing, It's the Law**

To promote fair housing practices, the City of Bridge City encourages potential homeowners and renters to be aware of their rights under the National Fair Housing Law.

Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, prohibits discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin in the sale or rental of units in the housing market.

For more information on fair housing or to report possible fair housing discrimination, call the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's toll-free hotline at 1-800-669-9777.

Hurricane Preparedness Tips

This fact sheet contains health and safety tips for families preparing for a hurricane from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and its agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Food and Drug Administration.

Hurricanes and Your Health and Safety

- The great majority of injuries during a hurricane are cuts caused by flying glass or other debris. Other injuries include puncture wounds resulting from exposed nails, metal, or glass, and bone fractures.
- State and local health departments may issue health advisories or recommendations particular to local conditions. If in doubt, contact your local or state health department.
- Make sure to include all essential medications -- both prescription and over the counter -- in your family's emergency disaster kit.

Water Quality

- Hurricanes, especially if accompanied by a tidal surge or flooding, can contaminate the public water supply. Drinking contaminated water may cause illness. You cannot assume that the water in the hurricane-affected area is safe to drink.
- In the area hit by a hurricane, water treatment plants may not be operating; even if they are, storm damage and flooding can contaminate water lines. Listen for public announcements about the safety of the municipal water supply.
- If your well has been flooded, it needs to be tested and disinfected after the storm passes and the floodwaters recede. Questions about testing should be directed to your local or state health department.

Water Safety

- Use bottled water that has not been exposed to flood waters if it is available.
- If you don't have bottled water, you should boil water to make it safe. Boiling water will kill most types of disease-causing organisms that may be present. If the water is cloudy, filter it through clean cloths or allow it to settle, and draw off the clear water for boiling. Boil the water for one minute, let it cool, and store it in clean containers with covers.
- If you can't boil water, you can disinfect it using household bleach. Bleach will kill some, but not all, types of disease-causing organisms that may be in the water. If the water is cloudy, filter it through clean cloths or allow it to settle, and draw off the clear water for disinfection. Add 1/8 teaspoon (or 8 drops) of regular, unscented, liquid household bleach for each gallon of water, stir it well and let it stand for 30 minutes before you use it. Store disinfected water in clean containers with covers.
- If you have a well that has been flooded, the water should be tested and disinfected after flood waters recede. If you suspect that your well may be contaminated, contact your local or state health department or agriculture extension agent for specific advice.

Food Safety

- Do not eat any food that may have come into contact with flood water.
- Discard any food that is not in a waterproof container if there is any chance that it has come into contact with flood water. Food containers that are not waterproof include those with screw-caps, snap lids, pull tops, and crimped caps. Also, discard cardboard juice/milk/baby formula boxes and home canned foods if they have come in contact with flood water, because they cannot be effectively cleaned and sanitized.

- Inspect canned foods and discard any food in damaged cans. Can damage is shown by swelling; leakage; punctures; holes; fractures; extensive deep rusting; or crushing/denting severe enough to prevent normal stacking or opening with a manual, wheel-type can opener.
- Undamaged, commercially prepared foods in all-metal cans and retort pouches (for example, flexible, shelf-stable juice or seafood pouches) can be saved if you do the following:
 - Remove the labels, if they are the removable kind, since they can harbor dirt and bacteria.
 - Thoroughly wash the cans or retort pouches with soap and water, using hot water if it is available.
 - Brush or wipe away any dirt or silt.
 - Rinse the cans or retort pouches with water that is safe for drinking, if available, since dirt or residual soap will reduce the effectiveness of chlorine sanitation.
 - Then, sanitize them by immersion in one of the two following ways:
 - place in water and allow the water to come to a boil and continue boiling for 2 minutes, or
 - place in a freshly-made solution consisting of 1 tablespoon of unscented liquid chlorine bleach per gallon of drinking water (or the cleanest, clearest water available) for 15 minutes.
- Air dry cans or retort pouches for a minimum of 1 hour before opening or storing.
- If the labels were removable, then re-label your cans or retort pouches, including the expiration date (if available), with a marker.
- Food in reconditioned cans or retort pouches should be used as soon as possible, thereafter.
- Any concentrated baby formula in reconditioned, all-metal containers must be diluted with clean, drinking water.
- Thoroughly wash metal pans, ceramic dishes, and utensils (including can openers) with soap and water, using hot water if available. Rinse, and then sanitize them by boiling in clean water or immersing them for 15 minutes in a solution of 1 tablespoon of unscented, liquid chlorine bleach per gallon of drinking water (or the cleanest, clearest water available).
- Thoroughly wash countertops with soap and water, using hot water if available. Rinse, and then sanitize by applying a solution of 1 tablespoon of unscented, liquid chlorine bleach per gallon of drinking water (or the cleanest, clearest water available). Allow to air dry.

Frozen and Refrigerated Foods

- If you will be without power for a long period:
 - ask friends to store your frozen foods in their freezers if they have electricity;
 - see if freezer space is available in a store, church, school, or commercial freezer that has electrical service; or
 - use dry ice, if available. Twenty-five pounds of dry ice will keep a ten-cubic-foot freezer below freezing for 3-4 days. Use care when handling dry ice, and wear dry, heavy gloves to avoid injury.

- Your refrigerator will keep foods cool for about four hours without power if it is unopened. Add block or dry ice to your refrigerator if the electricity will be off longer than four hours.
- Thawed food can usually be eaten if it is still "refrigerator cold," or re-frozen if it still contains ice crystals.
- To be safe, remember, "When in doubt, throw it out." Discard any food that has been at room temperature for two hours or more, and any food that has an unusual odor, color, or texture.

Sanitation and Hygiene

It is critical for you to remember to practice basic hygiene during the emergency period. Always wash your hands with soap and water that has been boiled or disinfected:

- before preparing or eating
- after toilet use
- after participating in cleanup activities; and
- after handling articles contaminated with floodwater or sewage.

If there is flooding along with a hurricane, the waters may contain fecal material from overflowing sewage systems and agricultural and industrial waste. Although skin contact with floodwater does not, by itself, pose a serious health risk, there is risk of disease from eating or drinking anything contaminated with floodwater.

If you have any open cuts or sores that will be exposed to floodwater, keep them as clean as possible by washing them with soap and applying an antibiotic ointment to discourage infection. If a wound develops redness, swelling, or drainage, seek immediate medical attention.

Do not allow children to play in floodwater areas. Wash children's hands frequently (always before meals), and do not allow children to play with floodwater-contaminated toys that have not been disinfected. You can disinfect toys using a solution of one cup of bleach in five gallons of water.

Immunizations

Outbreaks of communicable diseases after hurricanes are unusual. However, the rates of diseases that were present before a hurricane may increase because of a lack of sanitation or overcrowding in shelters. Increases in infectious diseases that were not present before the hurricane are not a problem, so mass vaccination programs are unnecessary.

If you have wounds, you should be evaluated for a tetanus immunization, just as you would at any other time of injury. If you receive a puncture wound or a wound contaminated with feces, soil, or saliva, have a doctor or health department determine whether a tetanus booster is necessary based on individual records.

Specific recommendations for vaccinations should be made on a case-by-case basis, or as determined by local and state health departments.

Mosquitoes

Rain and flooding in a hurricane area may lead to an increase in mosquitoes. Mosquitoes are most active at sunrise and sunset. In most cases, the mosquitoes will be pests but will not carry communicable diseases. It is unlikely that diseases which were not present in the area prior to the hurricane would be of concern. Local, state, and federal public health authorities will be actively working to control the spread of any mosquito-borne diseases.

To protect yourself from mosquitoes, use screens on dwellings, and wear clothes with long sleeves and long pants. Insect repellents that contain DEET are very effective. Be sure to read all instructions before using DEET. Care must be taken when using DEET on small children. Products containing DEET are available from stores and through local and state health departments.

To control mosquito populations, drain all standing water left in open containers outside your home.

Mental Health

The days and weeks after a hurricane are going to be rough. In addition to your physical health, you need to take some time to consider your mental health as well. Remember that some sleeplessness, anxiety, anger, hyperactivity, mild depression, or lethargy are normal, and may go away with time. If you feel any of these symptoms acutely, seek counseling. Remember that children need extra care and attention before, during, and after the storm. Be sure to locate a favorite toy or game for your child before the storm arrives to help maintain his/her sense of security. Your state and local health departments will help you find the local resources, including hospitals or health care providers, that you may need.

2-1-1 Texas, a program of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, is committed to helping Texas citizens connect with the services they need.

**ENCLOSED IS VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION
REGARDING YOUR CITY SERVICES**

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

CITY OF BRIDGE CITY
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