

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT VILLAGE OF CARTHAGE DRINKING WATER

The Village of Carthage exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of **60 ug/L** for Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) present in drinking water. During the four calendar quarters ending August, 2018, the locational running annual average (RAA) for haloacetic acids was **61.45** micrograms per liter at one sample site and 63.05 micrograms per liter at the other sample site in the Village.. These levels are based on a locational running annual average of quarterly samples collected from these locations.

Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what you should do, where these contaminants came from, and what is being done.

What should I do?

You DO NOT need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. No immediate action is required or necessary. You are being notified of this because it is required by the Department of Health.

Where do HAA5's come from?

Haloacetic acids are a group of chemicals that includes mono-, di- and trichloroacetic acids and mono- and dibromoacetic acids. Haloacetic acids are formed in drinking water during treatment by chlorine, which reacts with certain acids that are in naturally-occurring organic material (e.g., decomposing vegetation such as tree leaves, algae or other aquatic plants) in surface water sources. The amount of haloacetic acids in drinking water can change from day to day, depending on the temperature, the amount of organic material in the water, the amount of chlorine added, and a variety of other factors. Drinking water is disinfected by public water suppliers to kill bacteria and viruses that could cause serious illnesses. Chlorine is the most commonly used disinfectant in New York State. For this reason, disinfection of drinking water by chlorination is beneficial to public health.

Some studies of people who drank chlorinated drinking water for 20 to 30 years show that long term exposure to disinfection by-products (possibly including haloacetic acids) is associated with an increased risk for certain types of cancer. However, how long and how frequently people actually drank the water as well as how much haloacetic acids the water contained is not known for certain. Therefore, we do not know for sure if the observed increased risk for cancer is due to haloacetic acids, other disinfection by-products, or some other factor. The individual haloacetic acids dichloroacetic acid and trichloroacetic acid cause cancer in laboratory animals exposed to high levels over their lifetimes. Dichloroacetic acid and trichloroacetic acid are also known to cause other effects in laboratory animals after high levels of exposure, primarily on the liver, kidney and nervous system and on their ability to bear healthy offspring. Chemicals that cause effects in animals after high levels of exposure may pose a risk to humans exposed to similar or lower levels over long periods of time.

What happened and what is being done?

The combination of the quantity of disinfectant needed and the amount of naturally occurring organic material in the incoming water resulted in a level of HAA5's in excess of the MCL. In order to kill disease-causing microorganisms, water treatment regulations require a certain contact time for the chlorine and water before it enters the distribution system. The Carthage/ West Carthage Joint Water personnel are currently working with the Department of Health to identify solutions to this problem. We have hired an engineering firm to evaluate our water storage tanks and the possibility of installing mixers to remove excess disinfection byproducts from our water. The Carthage / West Carthage Joint Water Board has implemented a plan to reduce organics from our surface water source, drain each of the 3 water tanks and flush both distribution systems in each village. While there is no immediate action that can reduce these results please be assured that we are working very hard to make the necessary improvements.

If you have any questions, please contact the Village of Carthage Water Operator, Mr. Ernie Prieto at (315) 493-2210 or the New York State Department of Health, Watertown District Office at (315) 785-2277.