

# 2015 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT



*Providing our customers with safe and reliable drinking water is a primary mission of the City of Fircrest Water Utility. This annual report is intended to provide current, factual information about your drinking water. This report includes details about where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to the stringent standards set by regulatory agencies.*

*All public water systems are required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide all of their water customers with an annual report on the quality of the drinking water provided.*

## WHERE DOES THE WATER COME FROM?

The City owns and operates the water system which consists of six ground wells and three reservoir tanks with a capacity of 1.8 million gallons. The water comes from two underground aquifers called the Vashon Advance Outwash and the Colvos Sand.

## WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE QUALITY OF MY WATER?

*To obtain more information on water quality issues contact any of the following agencies:*

**Fircrest Public Works**  
253-564-8900  
[www.cityoffircrest.net](http://www.cityoffircrest.net)

**US Environmental Protection Agency**  
**Safe Drinking Water Hotline**  
800-426-4791  
[www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)

**Washington State Department of Health**  
**Northwest Regional Office**  
253-395-6750  
[www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw)

The Fircrest City Council holds regular meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 pm, in the City Hall Council Chambers, 115 Ramsdell Street, Fircrest, WA.

## WELLHEAD PROTECTION PLAN

Preventing pollution is the first priority in protecting our groundwater supply. The objective is to reduce the risks of water supply contaminations by chemicals or other materials that might make the water supply unusable. Fircrest is completely dependent on groundwater. To protect the City's many wellheads, the focus is on human activity on the land above the water-bearing zones called aquifers. The City has developed a Wellhead Protection Plan that has been approved by the State Department of Health.

## Do I need to take special precautions?

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).

## Why are there contaminants in my water?

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

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 at (1-800-426-4791) or from the EPA's Office of Ground Water website at: [www.epa.gov/OGWDW](http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW).

The City of Fircrest water system has had a recent sample that tested positive with non-acute coliform bacteria. This coliform is an indicator that there could be future water quality concerns. Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. As a result of this, the City of Fircrest isolated the problem to an older sampling station that has since been replaced with a new one. Current samples have shown no coliforms present.

In August of 2016, the City will be adding chlorine at the well sites to maintain chlorine residual throughout the system. This addition of chlorine will provide that level of protection. The details of the system are being developed at this time to make sure that the design meets the needs of the system while maintaining a high level of water quality for our consumers.

## TEST RESULTS

Substance	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Ideal Goals (MCLG)	Range of Level Detected Exceed AL	Meets Standards	Potential Source
<b>Inorganic Chemicals (IC's)</b>						
Fluoride	2 ppm	1.7 ppm	4 ppm	0.2 - 1.7	Yes	Treatment Additive
Nitrites	10 ppm	3.8 ppm	10 ppm	2.0 - 3.8	Yes	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Lead	15 ppb	0.004 ppm	0	< 0.001 - 0.004	Yes	Household Plumbing
Copper	1.3 ppm	1.9 ppm	1.3 ppm	< 0.02 - 0.64	Yes	Household Plumbing
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>						
Coliform	5%	None	0	None	Yes	Naturally Present in Environment
<b>Inorganic Chemicals (IC's)</b>						
Tests were performed in 2013 on 28 inorganic chemicals for which none exceeded the MCL.						
<b>Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOC's)</b>						
Tests were performed in 2015 on 47 volatile organic chemicals for which none were detected.						
<b>Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOC's)</b>						
Tests were performed in 2015 on 44 synthetic organic chemicals for which none were detected.						

### DEFINITIONS:

**Maximum Contaminant Level or 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 or MCLG:** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk of health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

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

**ppm** – Parts per million    **ppb** – Parts per billion

### CONTAMINANTS THAT MAY BE PRESENT IN SOURCE WATER INCLUDE:

**Microbial contaminants,** such as viruses, parasites 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, and 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.

