

Town of Monteagle Water Quality Report 2024

Is my drinking water safe?

Yes, our water meets all of EPA's health standards. We have conducted numerous tests for over 80 contaminants that may be in drinking water. As you'll see in the chart on the back, we only detected 11 of these contaminants. We found all 11 of these contaminants at safe levels.

What is the source of my water?

Your water, which is surface water, comes from Laurel Lake. Our goal is to protect our water from contaminants and we are working with the State to determine the vulnerability of our water source to **potential** contamination. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the untreated water sources serving this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of untreated water sources to **potential** contamination. To ensure safe drinking water, all public water systems treat and routinely test their water. Water sources have been rated as reasonably susceptible, moderately susceptible or slightly susceptible based on geologic factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. The Town of Monteagle's sources rated as slightly susceptible to potential contamination. An explanation of Tennessee's Source Water Assessment Program, the Source Water Assessment summaries, susceptibility scorings and the overall TDEC report to EPA can be viewed online at <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/water-quality/source-water-assessment.html> or you may contact the Water System to obtain copies of specific assessments.

Why are there contaminants in my water?

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).

How can I get involved?

The Monteagle City Council usually meets at 6:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday of each month, in the conference room at city hall, 16 Dixie Lee Avenue. Please feel free to participate in these meetings. Decisions by the Board of Commissioners on customer complaints brought before the Board of Commissioners under the District's customer complaint policy may be reviewed by the Utility Management Review Board of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation pursuant to Section 7-82-702(7) of Tennessee Code Annotated.

Is our water system meeting other rules that govern our operations?

The State and EPA require us to test and report on our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We have met all of these requirements. Results of unregulated contaminant analysis are available upon request. We want you to know that we pay attention to all the rules.

Other Information

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:

- 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 by-products 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.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Town of Monteagle's water treatment processes are designed to reduce any such substances to levels well below any health concern. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public 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 under-gone 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 not only their drinking water, but food preparation, personal hygiene, and precautions in handling infants and pets from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Lead in Drinking Water

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. The Town of Monteagle 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 800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

Water System Security

Following the events of September 2001, we realize that our customers are concerned about the security of their drinking water. We urge the public to report any suspicious activities at any utility facilities, including treatment plants, pumping stations, tanks, fire hydrants, etc. to 931-924-2265.

Think before you flush!

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of Tennessee's waterways by disposing in one of our permanent pharmaceutical take back bins. There are nearly 100 take back bins located across the state, to find a convenient location please visit: <https://tdeconline.tn.gov/rxtakeback/>

For more information about your drinking water, please call the Monteagle Water Plant at 924-2708.

Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Water Quality Data

What does this chart mean?

- **MCLG** - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or 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.
- **MCL** - Maximum Contaminant Level, or 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. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.
- **MRDL** - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or MRDL: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.
- **MRDLG** - Maximum residual disinfectant level goal. The level of a 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 contaminants.
- **AL** - Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** - explained as a relation to time and money as one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
- **Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter** - explained as a relation to time and money as one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- **RTCR** - Revised Total Coliform Rule. This rule went into effect on April 1, 2016 and replaces the MCL for total coliform with a Treatment Technique Trigger for a system assessment.
- **TT** - Treatment Technique, or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria (RTCR)	NO	0		2024		0	TT Trigger	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity ¹	NO	0.117 AVG.	0.06 - 0.29	2024	NTU	n/a	TT	Soil runoff
Fluoride	NO	0.56 AVG.	0.26- 0.90	2024	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Copper	NO	90%=0.131 ppm	0.0024 - 0.9370	2022	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead ⁴	NO	90%=2.87 ppb	2.00 – 3.30	2022	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) ⁵	NO	.182		3-27-24	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	NO	20.0		6-24-24	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment
TTHM ⁶ [Total trihalomethanes]	NO	67.75 LRAA	27.7 – 101.0	2024	ppb	80	80 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids ⁷ (HAA5)	YES	62.18 LRAA	12.8 – 57.0	2024	ppb	60	60 ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Chlorine	NO	1.38 AVG.	0.24 – 2.90	2024	ppm	MRDLG =4 ppm	MRDL=4 ppm	Water additive used to control microbes.
Total Organic Carbon ⁸	NO	1.39 AVG.	0.707 – 2.12	2024	ppm	TT	TT	Naturally present in the environment.

Unregulated Contaminants: No unregulated contaminants were above the MRL.

MRL – Minimum Reporting Level is the lowest analyte concentration that meets Data Quality Objectives that are developed based on the intended use of this method.

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. For additional information call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

During the most recent round of Lead and Copper testing, only 0 out of 20 households sampled contained concentrations exceeding the action level.

¹100% of our samples were below the turbidity limit. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

⁴Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

⁵Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

⁶TTHMs - While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for trihalomethanes, it does contain low levels. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

⁷HAA5- Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

During the First quarter of 2024 using the 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarter of 2023 and the 1st quarter of 2024 and during the second quarter of 2024 using the 3rd, and 4th quarters of 2023 and the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2024 at site 1050 N Bluff Circle test results, the LRAA for Total Haloacetic Acids has exceeded the MCL. To correct this problem flushing has been increased and treatment techniques have been modified. There is nothing you need to do at this time. If you have any questions, please contact the Monteagle Water Department at 931-924-2708. Please share this information with all other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have read this notice.

Quarter	Site	Site Name	Contaminant	LRAA	MCL	Units	Quarters used for LRAA
1Q2024	203	1050 N Bluff Circle	HAA	60.45	60	PPB	2Q2023, 3Q2023, 4Q2023, 1Q2024
2Q2024	203	1050 N Bluff Circle	HAA	62.18	60	PPB	3Q2023, 4Q2023, 1Q2024, 2Q2024
2024 Highest HAA site 203 – 57.00							

⁸We have met all treatment technique requirements for Total Organic Carbon removal.



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Monteagle Public Utility Board

Monteagle Public Utility Board violated a drinking water standard over the past year. Even though these were not emergencies, as our customers, you have the right to know what happened and what we are doing (did) to correct these situations.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During the month of November 2024, we did not monitor for Total Coliform or the chlorine residual in the system on time and therefore can not be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

The table below lists the contaminant(s) we did not test for, how often we are supposed to sample, how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which samples were (or will be) taken.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples required	When samples should have been taken	When samples were taken (or will be taken)
Total Coliform	4 Monthly	4	2 on 11-13-24 2 on 11-20-24	0 on 11-13-24 (missed) 2 on 11-20-24
Chlorine	4 Monthly	4	2 on 11-13-24 2 on 11-20-24	0 on 11-13-24 (missed) 2 on 11-20-24

What is being done?

All future required sampling dates have been verified and posted in the Monteagle Water Plant.

For more information, please contact Wayland Stewart at 931-924-2708.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Monteagle Public Utility Board.

State Water System ID# TN0000470

Date distributed: **6-6-2025**

There was a Consumer Confidence Report content violation in 2024 for not including the following Public Notice in last years Consumer confidence Report. Although it was printed in The Sewanee Mountain Messenger News Paper on December 1, 2023, it was not printed in last year's Consumer Confidence Report.

Public Notice:

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Monteagle Public Utility Board recently violated a federal drinking water standard. Although this situation does not require that you take immediate action, you as a customer, have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what was done to correct this situation.

During the **July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023** compliance period the water system's Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) at site # 203, North Bluff Circle, for Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) has been calculated to be **0.06145 mg/L**. This value exceeds the Maximum Contaminant Level of **0.060 mg/L** set for this parameter.

Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increase risk of getting cancer.

Total Haloacetic Acids are disinfection byproducts resulting from our chlorination of the water to minimize risk of microbial life in the drinking water. The EPA considers microbial contaminants as the greatest risk to the public. We are evaluating the results of the required disinfection and will continue to make an effort to reduce the disinfection byproducts without increasing the microbial risk.

You do not need to boil your water or take other actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

For more information, please contact Wayland Stewart at the Monteagle Water Plant 931-924-2708.

Please share this information with everyone who may drink this water, including those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you **by Monteagle Public Utility Board, PWSID#TN0000470.**

Date Distributed: **12-1-2023**

Date Redistributed: **6-6-2025**