



WATER DIVISION



**ANNUAL
WATER QUALITY REPORT
2008**

We are proud of the quality of water we supply to the citizens of this beautiful city.

As one of the premier places to live, Meridian has placed its 17 wells to draw clean potable water from the Boise Aquifer. The water we draw far exceeds federal and state standards and is delivered to nearly 26,700 connections serving an estimated 75,290 citizens of Meridian.

Water is life. We want to be sure the water being supplied to you is of the highest quality. If you have any concerns or questions about the water being delivered to your house please contact us. We are eager to help in any way we can. For any such questions or con-

cerns call us at (208) 888-5242 or visit our website at www/meridiancity.org. The Meridian City Council generally meets every Tuesday.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink,

the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

This annual report reflects the quality of our water for 2008.

PWS # 4010097



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 at 1-800-426-4791 or <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline>.

If you are not on Meridian's City Water System . . .

the amount of contaminants in your water will differ from those listed on the last inside page. If you have a private well, you should consider testing your water for certain contaminants, especially bacterial contaminants, on a regular basis.



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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline/>.

Contaminants that may be present in source water **BEFORE** we treat it 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 salt and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic water 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 water runoff, and septic systems.
- ❖ **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.



No lead has been detected in our wells.

However, it is important you know how lead in your plumbing can affect your health. Department of Environmental Quality has deemed it necessary we present to you a Lead Informational Statement (Health effects and ways to reduce exposure). 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. Our utility 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 drinking 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>.





Steps we are taking to maintain and improve the quality of water in Meridian:

- ❖ **We are proud to be one of the first systems in Idaho to use polyvinyl chloride (PVC) well casings.** PVC casing significantly reduces water quality concerns associated with the corrosion of steel casing.
- ❖ **We have the best cross connection control programs in Idaho.** The risk of contamination from sources outside our water system is reduced as we continually administer cross connection controls.
- ❖ **We chlorinate the water,** which kills harmful organisms and reduces the undesirable taste and odor sometimes caused by natural occurring minerals.
- ❖ **Water mains are flushed annually.** Flushing clears out the buildup of naturally-occurring sediments within the system that can cause discoloration and taste and odor problems.
- ❖ **We are taking steps to reduce discoloration in the water.** In addition to the annual spring flush we have added a fall and winter flush using newly installed discharge lines. The new installs can clear the lines without putting water on the roads. We have also reevaluated the chlorine settings to reduce oxidation that causes discolored water.
- ❖ **Multiple aquifers sampling** from test wells enables us to target the aquifer that provides the finest quality of water when we construct new wells.
- ❖ **We have implemented security improvements** to insure that your water remains safe.
- ❖ **We collected over 2,300 water samples** for lab analysis of various contaminants in 2008.



Meridian Water Division Suggested Conservation Tips

- ❖ Water your lawn early in the morning or at night to avoid excess evaporation. Do not over-water your lawn.
- ❖ Fully load the dishwasher and clothes washer before running.
- ❖ Defrost frozen food in the refrigerator or in the microwave instead of running hot water over the food.
- ❖ When washing dishes by hand, do not let the water run.
- ❖ Use a broom, rather than a hose, to clean sidewalks and driveways.
- ❖ If you have a swimming pool, use a cover. You will cut the loss of water due to evaporation by 90 percent
- ❖ Repair dripping faucets and leaky toilets. Dripping faucets can waste up to 2,000 gallons of water each year in the average home. Leaky toilets can waste as much as 200 gallons per day.
- ❖ Do not leave the sink running while you brush your teeth.



Water is Life

Drinking water is one of our most important and valuable natural resources. We urge you to conserve water, and also your money, by using it wisely.



Most Recent Test Results

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

| Contaminant | Violation (Yes/No) | MCL | MCLG | Lo Level Detected | Hi Level Detected | Test Date | Likely Source of Contamination |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------|-------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|--|
| Barium | No | 2.0 | 2.0 | <.01 | 0.12 | Jul-08 | Discharge of drilling wastes & metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits |
| Arsenic | No | 10.0 | N/A | <.1 | 3.30 | Jul-08 | Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes. |
| Fluoride | No | 4.0 | 4.0 | 0.15 | 0.53 | Jul-08 | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer & aluminum factories. |
| Nitrate (as Nitrogen) | No | 10.0 | 10.0 | <.1 | 4.86 | Aug-09 | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits. |
| Cadmium | No | 5.0 | 5.0 | <.5 | 0.70 | Jul-08 | Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries & paints. |
| Chromium | No | 100.0 | 100.0 | ND | 12.00 | Jul-08 | Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Beryllium (total) | No | 4.0 | 4.0 | <.2 | 0.40 | Jul-08 | Discharge from metal refineries & coal burning factories; discharge from electrical, aerospace, & defense industries. |

VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINATES

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|----|-----|-----|----|------|--------|--|
| Atrazine | No | 3.0 | 3.0 | ND | 0.40 | May-08 | Runoff from herbicide used on row crops. |
|----------|----|-----|-----|----|------|--------|--|

RADIONUCLIDES

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|------|------|----|-------|--------|------------------------------|
| Gross Alpha | No | 15.0 | 15.0 | ND | 5.10 | May-06 | Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Combined Radium | No | 5.0 | 5.0 | ND | 1.10 | Jul-06 | Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Uranium | No | 30.0 | 30.0 | ND | 38.00 | Jul-08 | Erosion of natural deposits. |

The high uranium levels was due to a well that recently reported levels above the MCL. The well was taken off line before it became a violation. Some people who drink water containing uranium in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer and Kidney toxicity.

LEAD AND COPPER

| Contaminant | Violation (Yes/No) | 90th %tile | Action Level | MCLG | # of sites above Action Level | Test Date | Likely Source of Contamination |
|-------------|--------------------|------------|--------------|------|-------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Lead | No | 4.4 | 15.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Aug-06 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits. |
| Copper | No | 0.1685 | 1.3 | 1.30 | 0.00 | Aug-06 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits. |

BACTERIA

| Contaminant | Violation (Yes/No) | MCL | MCLG | Lo Level Detected | Hi Level Detected | Likely Source of Contamination |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------|------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Total Coliform | No | 2 per month | | 0 | 1 | Naturally present in the environment. |

DISINFECTANT BY PRODUCTS

| Contaminant | Violation (Yes/No) | MCL | Hi Level Detected | Test Date | Likely Source of Contamination |
|----------------|--------------------|------|-------------------|-----------|--|
| HAA (total) | No | 60.0 | 24.00 | Jul-08 | By-product of drinking water chlorination. |
| THM ** (total) | No | 80 | 9.60 | Jul-08 | By-product of drinking water chlorination. |
| CHLORINE | No | 4.0 | 1.89 | Dec-08 | Water Additive used to control microbes. |

The table indicates the most recent tests which indicated the presence of contaminants.

The following definitions may help you better understand the terms and abbreviations in the table above.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Levels (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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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 Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

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



Meridian Water Division

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