

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Luke Air Force Base (LAFB) is committed to providing safe drinking water for all consumers and our water continues to be safe to drink.

Monitoring

LAFB monitors for numerous unsafe contaminants in our drinking water, to include arsenic. Arsenic is a naturally occurring mineral found in groundwater throughout the United States that can cause health concerns if ingested over a prolonged period of time. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set an arsenic maximum contaminant level (MCL) for public water supplies at 10 parts per billion (ppb) averaged per quarter. Current arsenic levels for LAFB drinking water are 3.3 ppb.

Exceedance

During a recent review of water contaminants, we discovered LAFB's drinking water exceeded arsenic MCLs resulting in an average arsenic level of 11.4 ppb for two quarters in 2015 and one quarter of 2016, which is above the 10 ppb running average MCL set forth by the EPA. Because of this we are required by the EPA to notify our customers of the potential health concerns associated with drinking water with arsenic contaminants above EPA designated MCL..

What has been done?

Because arsenic levels had been increasing in one of our main water wells, LAFB installed an arsenic filter on our water plant in 2008 and have performed quarterly monitoring/ testing since then in order to insure proper functioning of the filter. In December 2015, the arsenic filter media in the LAFB water plant was replaced; media are tiny granules that filter arsenic out of the water by removing the arsenic molecules from the water. Once the media was replaced, the arsenic levels declined well below the MCL and are currently at 3.3 ppb.

What should I do?

Absolutely nothing...the drinking water at LAFB is safe and compliant with EPA standards for all contaminants including arsenic. However, some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Arsenic is not readily absorbed by the skin, so contact with drinking water (showering, washing dishes, etc.) is not a significant risk. If you have a severely compromised immune system, had an infant, were pregnant, or are elderly, you may have been at an increased risk during this short exceedance period and should discuss this with your health care providers. If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor or primary care physician.

Point of Contacts

For additional information, please contact Public Health at 623-856-6176 for general health related questions or Bioenvironmental Engineering at 623-856-7521 for water testing concerns.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink LAFB's water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly, such as visitors to your building and contractors. You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent by Luke Air Force Base:

Lieutenant Colonel Mayer

623-856-5997 (Designee: Lieutenant Colonel Hasson)

7219 North Litchfield Road, Bldg 810, Luke AFB, AZ 85309-1933. State Water System ID# 07-305.

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