

CITY OF PRESCOTT PWS 13-045
2013 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY AND CONSUMER
CONFIDENCE REPORT



(FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2012)

Esta es información importante. Si no la pueden leer, necesitan que alguien se la traduzca.

The City of Prescott's Drinking Water

Applicable Federal and State Requirements

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) require purveyors of drinking water to annually report the quality of the water they deliver. The annual report provides information to customers to assist them in making decisions regarding their drinking water consumption. This report identifies the sources of Prescott's drinking water, provides water quality information, and summarizes analytical tests of the City's drinking water supply for Calendar Year 2012. During 2012, water from the City system met all applicable EPA and state drinking water health standards. The City of Prescott safeguards its water supplies, and once again is pleased to report compliance with prescribed maximum contaminant levels and other water quality standards. The City regularly conducts testing beyond the minimum regulatory requirements to further assure the safety of our drinking water.

The most frequently asked questions about water quality are hardness and sodium. Our water is considered moderately hard* averaging 113 to 127 ppm, which equals 6.6 to 7.4 grains per gallon. Water above 10 grains per gallon is considered hard and water less than 3 grains per gallon is considered soft. The level of sodium in our water ranges from 13.1 to 22.2 ppm.



What is the Source of Our Drinking Water

The City of Prescott produces its water from 7 production wells within the Prescott Active Management Area (AMA) drilled into the confined deep Lower Volcanic Unit of the aquifer underlying the Little Chino Sub-Basin. The water is of excellent quality with a safe production capability up to 12 million gallons per day (mgd). The wells are pumped in different combinations to meet daily demand. In 2012 the City of Prescott produced (pumped) 6,675 acre-feet of water from the wells and delivered this water to approximately 22,580 customers through approximately 400 miles of pipeline and 28 water storage tanks throughout its service area.

Is My Water Treated?

Arsenic treatment systems have been installed at the wells to treat and maintain arsenic levels below the new federal standard. The City of Prescott also treats its water with chlorine to prevent the development of bacterial contamination that could occur in the water storage and distribution systems.

If a chlorine taste or odor is detected, a container of water can be placed in the sunlight for two hours or stored overnight in the refrigerator to help dissipate the chlorine taste or odor. If a very strong chlorine taste or odor is detected, please contact Water Operations at (928) 777-1118 and a technician will be sent out to take a chlorine residual sample from the reported location.

* Moderately hard – ranking of two (2) on a scale of 1 to 4 per the American Water Works Association.

How Safe is the Water?

All 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 a health risk. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised individuals, such as those undergoing chemotherapy or other treatments, 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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- ◆ Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations or wildlife.
- ◆ Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals that can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water 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 storm water runoff or residential uses.
- ◆ Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- ◆ Radioactive contaminants that can be naturally-occurring or the result of oil and gas production or mining activities.
- ◆ In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. United States Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

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 transport substances associated with the

presence of animals or human activity. Wells are the only source of water for the City of Prescott. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Water Quality Data

The Water Quality Table on Page 3 contains the most recent analysis for regulated testing. The frequency of sample collection is determined by state and federal regulations and based on many different parameters such as type of water source, number of people served, as well as past and current analyses of the contaminant to be tested. This explains why some data may be more than one year old.

The City of Prescott is required to test for unregulated contaminants. The data generated by these tests will be used by the EPA to evaluate and prioritize contaminants on the Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List. None of the unregulated contaminants tested have been detected in the City's drinking water. If you would like to learn more about the monitoring results, please contact the Water Operations Division.

What is a PPM or a PPB measurement?

A simple way to visualize the Water Quality Table measurement scale is to consider the following analogies:

One ppm would equal:

- 4 drops of ink in a 55-gallon barrel of water
- 1 inch in 16 miles

One ppb would equal:

- 1 sheet in a roll of toilet paper stretching from New York to London
- 1 pinch of salt in 10 tons of potato chips

Water is the original health drink. With no calories, no cholesterol, no caffeine and no fats or sugars, every glass of water you drink nourishes your body and mind.



Water Quality Report

As your water provider, we serve more than water. We provide value, public health, reliability, and peace of mind. Our job is to ensure that your safe supply of water keeps flowing not only today, but well into the future. It's all part of our service commitment to you and everyone in our community.

Where to Learn More about Your Drinking Water

- ◆ Specific information about this report can be obtained by contacting City of Prescott Water Operations staff. Office: 1481 Sundog Ranch Road Phone: (928) 777-1118 Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday—Friday or accessing the City of Prescott website: www.prescott-az.gov
- ◆ Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791 Website: www.epa.gov/safewater
- ◆ Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (800) 234-5677 Website: www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/index.html
- ◆ Water related topics are discussed at City Council meetings and in other forums in which the public can participate. Meeting notices are published in the local newspaper and posted at City Hall, 201 S. Cortez Street, Prescott, Arizona.

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