

PUBLIC NOTICE  
**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

The Village of Tupper Lake Has Levels of  
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s)  
**Above Drinking Water Standards**

Our water system has violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our consumers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results from August 2015 through May 2016 show that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s). The MCL for TTHMs is 80 parts per billion (ppb). The MCL for HAA5s is 60 parts per billion (ppb). Our compliance is determined by averaging the 4 most recent samples collected on a quarterly basis at each sampling location (Pine Grove Restaurant and Village Office). This is called a locational running annual average (LRAA).

The MCL for THMs and HAA5s was exceeded at both locations.

The TTHM LRAA calculated during the 2nd quarter 2016 ranged from 103 ppb to 115 ppb.

The HAA5s LRAA calculated during the 2nd quarter 2016 ranged from 76 ppb to 128 ppb.

**What should I do?**

If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor. You may also wish to use an alternative water supply as your primary drinking water source (e.g. bottled water certified by NYS DOH).

**What does this mean?**

This is not an emergency. If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours.

Drinking water is disinfected by public water suppliers with chlorine to kill bacteria and viruses that could cause serious illnesses. Chlorine is the most commonly used disinfectant in New York State. For this reason, disinfection of drinking water by chlorination is beneficial to public health. However, trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids are groups of chemicals that are formed in drinking water during treatment using chlorine chemicals. Chlorine reacts with certain naturally occurring organic material in surface water to form trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids.

**TRIHALOMETHANES**

Some studies suggest that people who drink chlorinated water with elevated levels of trihalomethanes for long periods of time may have an increased risk for certain health effects. Some studies of people who drank chlorinated drinking water for 20 to 30 years show that long term exposure to disinfection by-products (including trihalomethanes) is associated with an increased risk for certain types of cancer. Other studies of women who drank water containing trihalomethanes during pregnancy show an association between exposure to elevated levels of trihalomethanes and small increased risks for low birth weights, miscarriages and birth defects. How frequently people actually drank the water, as well as the trihalomethanes level in the water were not evaluated in these studies. Therefore, we do not know for sure if the observed increases in risk for cancer and other health effects are due to trihalomethanes or some other factor. The individual trihalomethanes chloroform, bromodichloromethane and dibromochloromethane cause cancer in laboratory animals exposed to high levels over their lifetimes. Chloroform, bromodichloromethane and dibromochloromethane are also known to cause effects in laboratory animals after high levels of exposure, primarily on the liver, kidney, nervous system and on their ability to bear healthy offspring. Chemicals that cause adverse health effects in laboratory animals after high levels of exposure may pose a risk for adverse health effects in humans exposed to lower levels over long periods of time.

**HALOACETIC ACIDS**

Some studies suggest that people who drink chlorinated water with elevated levels of haloacetic acids for long periods of time may have an increased risk for certain health effects. Some studies of people who drank chlorinated drinking water for 20 to 30 years show that long term exposure to disinfection by-products (possibly including haloacetic acids) is associated with an increased risk for certain types of cancer. However, how long and how frequently people actually drank the water as well as how much haloacetic acids the water contained is not known for certain. Therefore, we do not know for sure if the observed increased risk for cancer is due to haloacetic acids, other disinfection by-products, or some other factor. The individual haloacetic acids dichloroacetic acid and trichloroacetic acid cause cancer in laboratory animals exposed to high levels over their lifetimes. Dichloroacetic acid and trichloroacetic acid are also known to cause other effects in laboratory animals after high levels of exposure, primarily on the liver, kidney and nervous system and on their ability to bear healthy offspring. Chemicals that cause effects in animals after high levels of exposure may pose a risk to humans exposed to similar or lower levels over long periods of time.

**What happened? What is being done?**

The Village of Tupper Lake has two surface sources of water, Little Simond Pond and Tupper Lake. The Village operates water filtration plants at both source water locations and treats the water with chlorine disinfection. Surface water sources contain naturally-occurring organic material (e.g., decomposing vegetation such as tree leaves, algae or other aquatic plants) which can form TTHMs and HAA5s when the water is disinfected with chlorine.

We are working with the New York State Department of Health and our consulting engineer to evaluate and research options to correct the problem. We flush the distribution system regularly. We are working on a project to develop a groundwater source which typically does not have the levels of naturally-occurring organic material found in surface water. We anticipate replacing the Tupper Lake source with a new groundwater source in 2016. For more information, please contact the Village Office at 359-3341.

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, 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 the Village of Tupper Lake.

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