

**2019 WATER QUALITY REPORT  
SOUTH HADLEY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2  
WATER DEPARTMENT  
PWSID# 1275001**

**2019 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)**



To Our Valued Customers:

South Hadley Fire District No.2 Water Department is proud to be your local water service provider, our team of dedicated, trained professionals who are committed to providing you with a reliable supply of high-quality water and responsive service. We know the most important thing we do each and every day is to provide clean, safe drinking water so families can have trust and confidence in the water delivered to their home or business. Please take time to review this report. It provides details about the source and quality of your drinking water using data from water quality testing conducted for our system between January and December 2019.

In 2019 we pumped 160,777,000 gallons of water from our wells. Delivering safe drinking water to our customers is our highest priority. Our team appreciates the trust you put in us every day when you turn on the tap. We are committed to honoring that trust and delivering a quality product and world class service to our customers for less than a penny a gallon. If you have any questions or comments about your drinking water on this report, please call our office at 413-532-9210.

**Beginning in 2016, South Hadley Fire District No.2 (SHFD2) no longer mails individual copies of the Consumer Confidence Report to customers, as it is available electronically by following the link on your water bill. Printed copies will be available in our office on or before July 1, 2020. If you have any questions, please contact the Water Department during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 AM until 2:30 PM**

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The Present Commissioners and the offices they hold are as follow:

Mr. Francis DeToma, Chair, Ms. Katharine Bedard, Clerk, Mr. William Holt, Member

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**Mark Aiken, Superintendent**  
**Web Address:** [www.shdistrict2.org](http://www.shdistrict2.org)

**Office Hours:** Mon - Fri: 8:30am - 2:30p  
**Tele:** 413-532-9210

**Mailing Address:**  
South Hadley Fire District No. 2  
Water Department  
20 Woodbridge Street  
South Hadley MA 01075

## South Hadley Fire District No. 2 Water Quality Report – Monitoring Results for Drinking 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 EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline, (800)-426-4791. The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, are more than one year old.

### WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS

CONTAMINANT	UNIT	MCL EPA'S LIMITS	MCLG Health Goals	LEVEL Detected	VIOLATION (yes/no)	Year Sampled	Potential Source of Contamination
Copper	ppm	1.3 = AL	1.3	0.471 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile	NO	2017	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead	ppb	15 = AL	0	.0037 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile	NO	2017	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate Well - 1	ppm	10	10	1.2	NO	2019	Run off from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate Well - 2	ppm	N/A	N/A	1.1	NO	2019	Run off from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium -Well 1	ppm	N/A	N/A	7.4	NO	2017	Naturally Occurring
Sodium - Well 2	ppm	N/A	N/A	7.2	NO	2017	Naturally Occurring
Sulfate – Well 1	ppm	N/A	N/A	13.5	NO	2017	Naturally present in the environment.
Sulfate – Well 2	ppm	N/A	N/A	24.8	NO	2017	Naturally present in the environment.
Chlorine	ppm	4	4	.35	NO	2017	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes	ppm	.080	.080	.00314	NO	2018	Disinfection by product

### DEFINITIONS

- MCL** (Maximum Contaminant Level): 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.
- MCLG** (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): 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.
- AL** (Action Level): the concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow
- 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile**: 90% of samples are equal to or less than the number in the chart.
- NA**: Not Applicable.
- PPB** (parts per billion): micrograms per liter (ug/l).
- PPM** (parts per million): milligrams per liter (mg/L).
- pCi/L** (picocuries per liter): a measure of radioactivity
- ND**: Not Detectable

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**Important Health Information:**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

Immuno-compromised persons such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/Aids or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

The U.S. EPA/CDC (center for disease control) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other micro contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

In order to ensure that the tap water is safe to drink, The Mass DEP and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public works systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

**The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wants you to know:** 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 maybe present in source water 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 salts and metals, this can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and 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 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. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

**Your Water Source;** South Hadley Fire District No. 2 pumps groundwater from our wells at Dry Brook Station Aquifer. The quality of water that we are able to pump in any given minute, day, month or year is strictly governed by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Back-up water supplies would come from South Hadley Fire District No. 1 in case of an emergency. We have seven (7) interconnections between the two systems.

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## Educational Information

“If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant woman and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The South Hadley Fire District No. 2 Water Department 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 or at: [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).”

### **What is lead:**

Major sources of lead in drinking water are corrosion of household plumbing systems, and erosion of natural deposits.

**Health Effects:** Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities.

Adults who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

### **What is copper:**

Major sources of copper in drinking water are corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits, and leaching from wood preservatives. Health Effects: Copper is an essential nutrient, some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. Anyone with Wilson’s Disease should consult their personal doctor.

If you are concerned about lead or copper levels, you may wish to have your water tested. Running your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before use will significantly reduce the levels of lead and copper in the water. Additional information is available from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at: [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead)

### Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3 (UCMR3)

During 2014, our Department participated in the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule. Unregulated Contaminants are those for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminant's in drinking water and whether regulation is warranted. Our results are available in this report.

### UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

PARAMETER	AS SET BY EPA		DIST. 2 WATER			YEAR SAMPLES	MAJOR SOURCES	
	HIGHEST LEVEL	IDEAL GOAL	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF DETECTION				
	ALLOWED (MCL)	(MCLG)		AVERAGE	MIN	MAX		
Chromium (PPB)	N/A	N/A	0.475	0.138	0.266	0.475	2014	Erosion of natural deposits
Manganese (PPG)	N/A	N/A	2.1	2.1	0	2.1	2014	Erosion of natural deposits
Strontium (PPB)	N/A	N/A	76.357	72.45	70.035	76.357	2014	Erosion of natural deposits
Vanadium (PBB)	N/A	N/A	0.465	0.37	0.308	0.465	2014	Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium-6 (PPB)	N/A	N/A	0.511	0.43	0.278	0.511	2014	Erosion of natural deposits

In order to maintain water quality within your home, it is suggested by the South Hadley Fire District No. 2 Water Department that you remove and clean each faucet aerator twice annually. Aerators are the screens that screw into the end of the faucet.

Our goal is to provide you with a continuous supply of quality drinking water. We welcome comments and suggestions you may have to help us reach and maintain that goal.

### Protecting Your Water Source

**SWAP** (Source Water Assessment Program) is a program of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to study existing and potential threats to the quality of public drinking water sources throughout the state. Sources are rated depending upon their contaminant susceptibility.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has completed a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) report for the South Hadley Fire District No. 2 Water Department. We use this report to assess and improve our water. Copies of this report are available upon request, or by logging on to:

[www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/swapreps.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/swapreps.htm).

### Water Quality Statement

The data presented in the Table Detected Contaminants is the same data collected to comply with U.S. EPA and the Massachusetts state monitoring and testing requirements. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected well below the levels set by the EPA. To assure high quality water, individual water samples are taken each year for chemical, physical and microbiological tests. Tests are done on water taken from the source and, for lead and copper monitoring, from the customer's tap. Testing can pinpoint a potential problem so that preventative action may be taken.

### **What is a Cross-Connection and Backflow?**

A cross-connection is any connection or potential connection between a potable (drinking) water supply system and any source of non-potable or non-drinkable liquid, solid or gas. What appears to be a harmless garden hose connection creates a dangerous cross connection between potable and non-potable water.

There are two types of backflow: back-pressure and back-siphonage.

- Back-pressure is when the water supply is connected to a device that creates pressure, such as a boiler, pressure washer, etc. The pressure created can be greater than the water supply, thereby creating backflow.
- Back-siphonage is when there is a loss of pressure in the water supply. This will cause the water in your facility to flow backwards back into the water supply and/or into other plumbing connections within your facility. This situation can occur when a fire hydrant is opened, when there is a water main break, etc.

Under certain circumstances of unequal pressure, a non-drinkable substance could either be pulled or pushed into a drinking water supply. This is called backflow.

Backflow can reverse the flow of water or other substances into the public or private water system, resulting in chemicals or contaminants getting into the drinking water. In other words, due to changes in pressure, the water can flow in the opposite direction from what is intended. This is why the installation, inspection and proper maintenance of Cross-Connection Control Devices is imperative to the safety of your drinking water.

### **There's a lot more to your water bill than just water.**

When you turn on the tap, it's easy to see what your water bill buys. What's not easy to see is what it takes to bring that water to your home. The miles of pipeline hidden below the ground. The facilities that draw from the source. Where it's tested. The operating systems engineers and crews working around the clock to make sure that water is always there when you need it. Your water payments are helping build a better tomorrow by supporting needed improvements that will keep water flowing for all of us – today and well into the future. All for less than a penny a gallon.

### **Who's Pipes are Whose?**

The South Hadley Fire District No. 2 Water Commission is responsible for pipes on the "street side" of the curb stop – specifically, from the water main in the street to the shut off at the curb. If you notice a water leak in the street or in the vicinity of your water meter, please call (413) 532-9210 to report it.

The property owner is generally responsible for all pipes and plumbing on the "customer side" of the curb stop. This includes the interior plumbing of the home, the outside irrigation system, the underground water service after the curb stop, the meter pit and the area where the property's water system connects to the water meter. South Hadley Fire District No.2 shall furnish and install the meter and keep it in a state of repair. In case of misuses, damage by frost, external causes or any other damage to the meter, the property owner shall be responsible for the cost of repair or replacement (per our fee schedule). Only the Water Department will furnish, set and replace any meter impaired by such causes.

### **Landlords/Tenants**

The property owner **MUST** be listed on the water account. Delinquent water bills may result in a lien on your property. Upon request and with proper identification, bills will be sent to both the tenant and the property owner.

Please be aware that South Hadley Fire District No.2 will not involve itself in tenant/landlord disputes. The property owner is fully responsible for open and/or past due balances on his/her accounts. Failure to pay could result in termination of service and/or property lien.

## Troubleshooting Some Common Issues

If your bill is unusually high, but has **NOT** been estimated, there are a few things you can do to investigate the situation. First, check for leaks. Small leaks can add up quickly. Just a 1/8-inch sized leak consumes more than 3,500 gallons per day. While most leaks are easy to find, others may be more difficult and can often be left undetected.

Start by checking your toilets. Toilets can lose hundreds of gallons of water when leaking. You can also put a few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank and wait a few minutes. If the color shows up in the bowl, you have a leak that needs to be repaired.

Check indoor and outdoor faucets and replace worn gaskets and washers.

Look for drip stains beneath and behind your dishwasher and washing machines.

Check leaks in your sprinkler system, including damaged sprinkler heads.

A high bill may also be explained by changes in your water usage. Consider the following:

Did you have company staying at your house?

Have you recently filled your swimming pool?

How often are you watering your lawn?

Is your water sprinkler system functioning properly?

If you need assistance determining the reason for your unusually high bill, please contact the Water Department at (413) 532-9210.

### Here are some things you can do to conserve:

- Repair leaking toilets – check for toilet leaks by putting a drop of food coloring in the tank. If the food coloring seeps into the bowl without flushing,
- Consider installing low-flow 1.6 gallon per flush toilet.
- Don't use toilets as wastebasket.
- Fix leaking fixtures.
- Run full loads in the dishwasher.
- Set the water level in the washing machine to match the amount of clothes being washed.
- Water lawns and gardens in the early morning.
- Use mulch around plants and shrubs.
- Use a bucket rather than a running hose to wash cars.

Additional water conservation ideas and a link to a water saver calculator can be found at

<http://www.mwra.com/comsupport/waterconservationmain.htm>

## AQs

### 1. Do I need to filter my water?

Your tap water is perfectly safe without a filter. You might consider using a filter if you have internal problems with the plumbing in your home.

### 2. Is bottled water safer than tap water?

Keep in mind that many bottled waters are actually bottled tap water. Bottled water is regulated through the Food and Drug Administration and is considered a food product therefore, it is not as heavily regulated as tap water. Also, South Hadley Fire District No.2 is required to release information on their water quality, while bottled water companies are not.

### 3. How often is our drinking water tested for contaminants?

South Hadley Fire District No.2 takes hundreds of water samples throughout the year and makes them available to you in our annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). Our compliance with all state and federal drinking water laws remains exemplary.

### 4. Is there fluoride in my drinking water?

There is a small amount of naturally occurring fluoride (averaging .07 mg/L). We do not add any fluoride to the water.

### 5. Is the water that comes from the fire hydrant the same water used for drinking?

Yes. The fire hydrants and domestic services are tapped off of the same water mains.

### 6. How often is my meter read / when will I be billed?

Your water meter will be read and billed on a bi-monthly basis a total of six (6) billings. Billing dates, January 1, March 1, May 1, July 1, September 1, November 1).

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## SOUTH HADLEY WATER COMMISSIONERS

The South Hadley Fire District No. 2 Water Commission is the governing and policy-making body of the District No. 2 Water Department.

**To become involved with the water quality** decisions you may participate in public meetings, held every second Thursday of each month at 5:30 P.M. (unless otherwise posted), in the South Hadley Fire District No. 2 meeting room, 20 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley.

### Public Participation How You Can Get Involved:

- Reading the information provided in bill inserts and special mailings
  - Contacting the department directly with questions or to discuss issues
  - Attending the Annual Meeting on the First Monday in May.
  - Voting on Election Day.
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## Reading Your Bill

Water usage is billed six times per year.

On your billing statement, you will notice a row of numbers similar to this example:

Reading dates	Service Description	Previous	Current	Usage	Charges
	Water Usage	481200	484800	3600	\$171.00

- The first number listed is your past meter (Previous) reading in cubic feet (CF).
- The second number is your current meter (Present) reading in cubic feet (CF).
- The third number is the total amount of water you have consumed (Usage) in cubic feet (CF).
- The fourth number listed is the cost (Charges) of the water used. ( $36 \times 4.75 = 171.00$ )

**Note: The numbers used are from an example bill. Actual numbers will vary.**

### Calculating Water Usage (cubic feet to gallons).

Your water meter measures and records water usage in cubic feet. Water billing is calculated by the unit, with each unit equal to 100 cubic feet. There are 7.48 gallons in one cubic foot of water, or 748 gallons in each hundred-cf unit of water.

To calculate how many gallons you have used, multiply the hundred-cf units consumed by 748.

In our example, a rate payer has used 3600 cubic feet, or 36 hundred-cf units of water.

- $36 \times 748 = 26,928$  gallons consumed.

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## YOUR WATER QUALITY REPORT

**This report contains information about your drinking water.**

Congress and the EPA require us to inform you annually about your drinking water and its impacts. Although most content in this report is required, we are pleased to share additional helpful information about your water and the work we do to get it to you