



City of Myrtle Creek

207 NW Pleasant, PO Box 940 · Myrtle Creek, OR 97457

Phone: 1-541-863-3171, Fax: 1-541-863-6851

cityofmyrtle creek.com

PRESS RELEASE MAY 27, 2019 5:30PM

Diesel Contamination Event 5-27-19

At 9:07 AM Myrtle Creek Public Works received the first call of potential contamination of the drinking water system. Staff investigated and tracked the source of the contamination to the Springbrook Water Treatment Plant. That source was shut down at approximately 10:00 AM.

Multiple calls came in and Staff was able to determine that the problem seemed to be located primarily north of Division Street in Myrtle Creek.

Myrtle Creek Staff started the South Umpqua Treatment Plant around 10:30 to contain the contaminated water to the affected area. Five crews began a directional flushing of fire hydrants to remove the water from the distribution system, working towards the Springbrook Plant. At this point Public Works Staff is no longer detecting any diesel odor when flushing hydrants. **However, at this point the water should still be considered unsafe to use until further notice.** We will have results from testing by 12:00PM tomorrow.

Samples will be pulled from around the system and analyzed at Umpqua Research for Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons, Volatile Organic Compounds, Diesel and Gasoline. As soon as results are available we will release further information.

The cause of the spill is under investigation. The DEQ is handling the cleanup of the water source and the Springbrook Treatment Plant will remain off until the source is tested and determined to be clean of any petroleum based contaminants. The plant will undergo thorough flushing and cleaning before operation resumes.

The City of Myrtle Creek is fortunate to have two water sources at times like this. The South Umpqua Treatment Plant has the capacity to provide all of our drinking water at any time throughout the year.

The City of Myrtle Creek was assisted by the following agencies:

Myrtle Creek Fire Department

Umpqua Research

OSFM Roseburg Team 1 Hazmat

Oregon Health Authority

Department of Environmental Quality