



CITY OF MYRTLE CREEK

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Press Release 5-28-2019 2:30PM Diesel Fuel Contamination

This is an update to the previous notice, the Drinking Water Advisory is still in effect. At this time the drinking water in Myrtle Creek is still considered unsafe to drink.

At 9:07 AM on May 27, 2019 Myrtle Creek Public Works was alerted to potential contamination of our drinking water system with a diesel like contaminant. Public Works were quickly able to isolate the affected Springbrook treatment plant and begin flushing the distribution system with fresh water from the South Umpqua Treatment Plant. Samples of the drinking water pulled from the distribution system and the Springbrook Treatment plant show low level detects for both gasoline and diesel. The EPA and Oregon Health Authority do not have Maximum Contaminant Levels for gasoline or diesel as a contaminant; however the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has Risk Based Concentration Levels (RBCL). The initial round of testing results for gasoline and diesel pulled from the distribution system were below the RBCL but one sample from the clearwell of the Springbrook Treatment Plant had results above the RBCL. In the interest of public safety, another round of samples will be analyzed before the advisory could be lifted. Additional testing for 39 Volatile Organic Compounds and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons resulted in non-detects of any of those compounds.

A second round of tests are being analyzed with results to be expected by 7:00 PM tonight. At that point the advisory could be lifted.

All test results are available to the public at City Hall. Please call for an appointment if you wish to discuss the results.

Even if test results show acceptable low levels of gas or diesel from a health standpoint, the chemical qualities of both gas and diesel will lend to aromatic conditions that could linger as a taste or odor in our water system. If you find the taste or odor too strong do not use the water for drinking or cooking. The Public Works staff will continue to flush hydrants throughout the system to ensure the safety of our drinking water.

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