



# WaterSmart NEWS

## PUBLIC NOTICE - Harmony Water System - PWS # 3494427

Dear Harmony Resident

The Toho Water authority began notifying residents of the Harmony Community in March, 2005 concerning a high level of trihalomethanes (TTHM) and haloacetic acids (HAA5) in the drinking water. These contaminants are compounds formed from a reaction of chlorine with dissolved organic substances naturally present in the drinking water. Toho Water Authority has updated residents every ninety days on the current level of TTHMs and HAA5, and the progress to reduce the formation of these to a recommended level.

The following two paragraphs are a duplicate of the letter mailed to each resident on September 28, 2007 and contain required information from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). However, please pay close attention to the remainder of the letter that contains the latest results and updated information concerning the levels of TTHMs and HAA5s in your drinking water.

The state of Florida as well as many other states requires the use of a disinfectant to minimize the possibility of bacterial contamination in the drinking water distribution system. However, when used in the treatment of drinking water, disinfectants react with naturally occurring organic and inorganic matter present in water to form chemicals called disinfection by-products (DBPs).

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection have set standards for controlling levels of disinfectants and DBPs in drinking water. These standards are based on a running annual average (RAA) of samples taken quarterly. On January 1, 2004, the EPA lowered the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for TTHMs from 100 parts per billion (ppb) to 80 ppb and established a standard of 60 ppb for HAA5s.

The data from the most recent quarterly samples collected on April 20, 2009 by Toho Water Authority indicated that the second quarter sampling event levels collected after the operation of the chloramine disinfection system was optimized were 2.05 ppb for TTHMs and 25.3 ppb for HAA5s. Based on quarterly test results for samples collected during the last four quarters, the running annual average (RAA) for TTHMs and HAA5s is shown in the table below. Based on these RAA, an MCL violation continues to exist.

SAMPLE DATE	TTHM (ppb)	HAA5 (ppb)
Third Quarter 2008 7/24/08	161 ppb	127 ppb
Fourth Quarter 2008 10/30/08	142 ppb	101 ppb
First Quarter 2009 1/14/09, 3/5/09	45.3 ppb	44.7 ppb
Second Quarter 2009 4/20/09	2.05 ppb	25.3 ppb
<b>RUNNING ANNUAL AVERAGE</b>	<b>87.6 ppb</b>	<b>74.5 ppb</b>

### What should I do?

These levels are not an immediate health risk. If they had been you would have been notified immediately.

### What does this mean?

*Some people who drink the water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.*

It has been estimated by the EPA that harmful effects may be noticed if a person consumes 2 liters of water with TTHMs in excess of the standard on a daily basis for 70 years. If you have specific health concerns consult your doctor.

### What corrective action is being taken?

Toho Water Authority will continue with the quarterly monitoring and a public notice will be mailed to each customer every 90 days until these MCL violations are corrected.

Toho Water Authority has determined that it would be more appropriate to convert the disinfectant used in the Harmony Water system from chlorine to chloramines which do not produce the disinfection byproducts that chlorine disinfection does. On 15 December 2008 the chloramine based disinfection was placed into service at Harmony. As can be seen in the most recent sampling results after the system was changed to chloramine disinfection and operational adjustments to the chloramine treatment system were completed, the levels of TTHMs and HAA5s were significantly decreased.

As a result of this conversion, and subsequent levels of TTHMs and HAA5s bringing the results below the MCL for the past two quarters, Toho will no longer supply a replacement filter for your faucet mounted filtering device. If you received a faucet mounted filtering device for your home, you may keep the device and the purchase replacement filters is your option. However, the filtering device is no longer necessary for removal of TTHMs or HAA5s. If you have any questions concerning this program, please contact Mary Guidone, Utility Information Coordinator:

- By phone 407-518-2397
- [mguidone@tohowater.com](mailto:mguidone@tohowater.com)
- [www.tohowater.com](http://www.tohowater.com) using the feedback button
- 101 North Church Street, Kissimmee, FL 34741

***Please share this information with all other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example in apartments, nursing homes, schools and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.***

Sincerely,

TOHO WATER AUTHORITY  
Brian L. Wheeler, PE Executive Director

Date Delivered: 8 June 2009