

Fort Detrick

DRINKING WATER NOTICE

Total organic carbon reduction for the 4th quarter 2012 did not meet regulatory limits established by the Maryland Department of the Environment. There are no health related issues associated with this notification. Total organic carbon is a measurement of material such as algae and leaf debris that can be found in source water. We monitor our drinking water on a quarterly basis for the presence of total organic carbon to confirm the efficient operation of the water treatment plant.

What This Means

This is not an emergency. Total organic carbon has no health effects. However, total organic carbon provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts. These byproducts include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Drinking water containing these byproducts in excess of the Maximum Contaminant Level may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, nervous system effects, and may lead to an increased risk of getting cancer. Disinfection byproducts measured in Fort Detrick's drinking water are well within regulatory levels.

You may drink the water. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

Steps We Are Taking

Improvements to the treatment processes at the water treatment plant are scheduled to begin in the Spring of 2013. The improvements are expected to take about two years to complete. In the interim, Fort Detrick will purchase water from Frederick County and the water treatment plant will be temporarily shut down.

Please feel free to share this information with all other people that live or work within the Fort Detrick community. For more information, please contact Mark Lewis of the Fort Detrick Environmental Management Office at 301-619-3136.