



Airway Heights Water Advisory Lifted

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 8, 2017

Contact: Don Malone, Assistant Fire Chief/PIO

-We are here today to update the public on the PFOS/PFOA water contamination

-The city received confirmation results of the next set of 21 tests that were sent on Monday. Twenty of those samples came back below the advisory level or “non-detect”. The one location that came back just above the minimum level (98 PPT) has been valved off and does not supply water to the distribution system. In concurrence with the Department of Health the city is pleased to let the public and businesses know that we are removing the advisory that was put in place on Tuesday May 16th. The water can start being used immediately.

- On May 16th the city notified the public of contamination levels that were above 70 PPT in 3 of our city wells

-In an abundance of caution there was an advisory to the citizens of Airway Heights to not use the water for ingestion or cooking

-Within 6 hours the city was providing bottled drinking water to its citizens. Working jointly with Fairchild there has been over 140,000 gallons of water provided to citizens and businesses.

-Meetings with City Leaders, Fairchild Air Force Base, Department of Emergency Management, Department of Health, and Department of Ecology, the city decided it was prudent to flush the distribution system in strategic locations throughout the city.

-An estimate is a total of 33 MG used and/or flushed. (Most was used, not flushed.) The city has done 3 tests from several locations to make sure the flushing process was working. Each test showed significant improvement.

-Periodic testing of the water system will continue for the foreseeable future. The contaminated wells will remain shut down until a plan is in place to provide water below the advisory levels.

-Several other agencies and partners have contributed to the effort both at the water distribution site and behind the scenes. It has been humbling to see the outpour of support and resources that have offered assistance.

-Special thanks to Anatek Labs and the city of Spokane.

-Once again we would like to thank our citizens and businesses for their patience; and all of our partners that have assisted with the process.

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