



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

St. George Has Levels of Arsenic Above Drinking Water Standards

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants and we increased our monitoring efforts during our emergency response to the December flooding event that damaged a water pipeline. The damaged pipeline normally provides water used to blend with our Snow Canyon wells to meet the arsenic standard. Testing results we received on January 7, 2011 show that water from our Snow Canyon system exceeds the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for arsenic. The standard for arsenic is 10 ppb. The average level of arsenic has been found to be 11.6 ppb for sampling conducted to date in response to the flood event. The average level of arsenic over several months prior to the flood event was 7.5 ppb and met the standard.

What should I do?

§ **You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

What does this mean?

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

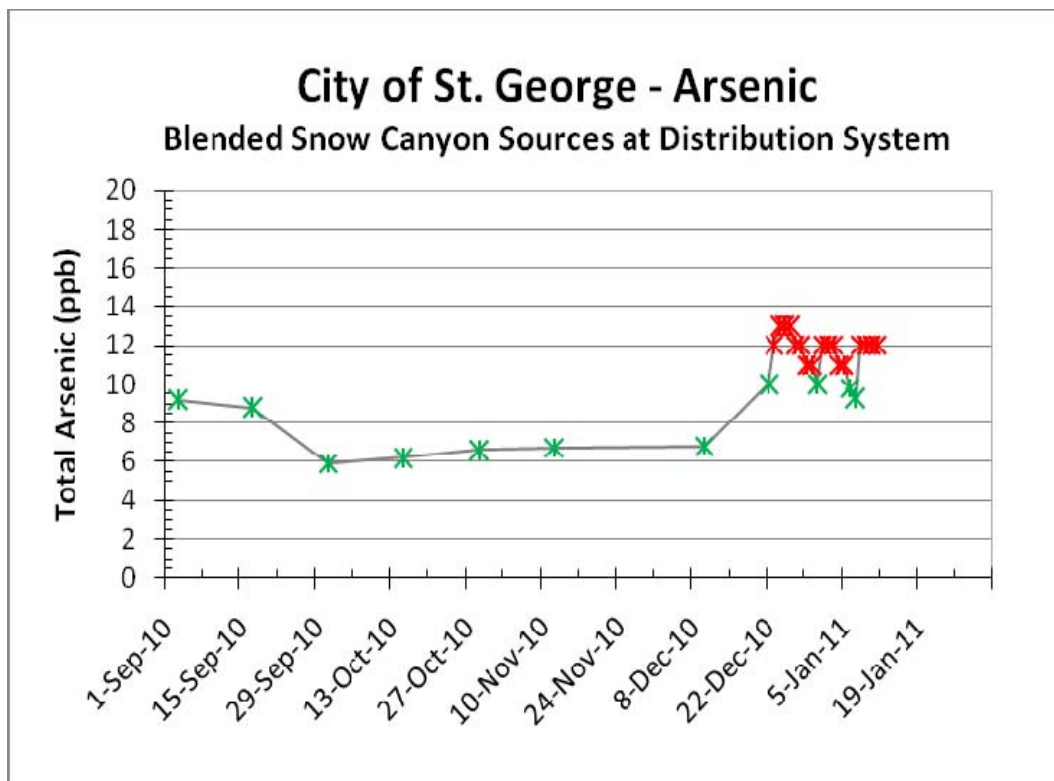
What happened?

§ The City purchases wholesale water from the Washington County Water Conservancy District (WCWCD). On December 22nd, a large water transmission line was damaged during flooding of the Virgin River. The line is 30 inches in diameter and provides water to the northwestern portion of the City. Much of the water from this line is fed into the Snow Canyon storage tanks where it blends with water from the Snow Canyon wells to reduce high arsenic levels. When blended with WCWCD sources, the Snow Canyon water meets the MCL for arsenic.

§ The City had to continue to meet customer demand without the additional water from WCWCD, so we asked Santa Clara to turn their wells on, and sequentially operated the Snow Canyon wells to keep the arsenic levels as low as possible until the damaged pipeline can be repaired and returned to service.

What is being done?

- § We are in contact with the WCWCD as they work to repair the damaged section of piping that crosses the Virgin River. We anticipate the problem will be resolved by February 5, 2011.
- § We are also working with the City of Santa Clara to maximize use of their wells which are low in arsenic. Of the remaining Snow Canyon wells, we are operating those with the lowest arsenic levels so that we can provide enough water to meet our customer's demand. As demand decreases, the higher arsenic wells are turned off first.
- § We are also taking daily samples and sending them to a certified laboratory so that we will know what the resulting arsenic levels are for the blends of the various wells that are operated. The samples taken to date show that on some days, the arsenic did not exceed 10 ppb. Arsenic has averaged 11.6 ppb since the emergency began, was highest at 13 ppb from December 24th thru 26th, and was lowest at 9.3 ppb on January 7th. A graph of the sampling results we've received to date is shown below.



For more information, please contact Barry Barnum at (435) 627-4000 or Shari McTiver at (435) 627-4858. You may also contact us by mail at the City of St. George, 175 East 200 North, St. George, UT 84770.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people 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.

This notice is being sent to you by the City of St. George Water Services Department.

Water System ID#: 27015
Date Published: January 25, 2011