

# SAGUACHE TOWN OF 2013 Drinking Water Quality Report For Calendar Year 2012

Public Water System ID: CO0155800

**Esta es información importante. Si no la pueden leer, necesitan que alguien se la traduzca.**

We are pleased to present to you this year's water quality report. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Please contact THERESE GARCIA at 719-655-2232 with any questions about the Drinking Consumer Confidence Rule (CCR) or for public participation opportunities that may affect the water quality.

## General Information

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or by visiting <http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants>.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV-AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk of infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, or to receive a copy of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and microbiological contaminants call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants:** viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants:** salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides:** may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Radioactive contaminants:** can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- Organic chemical contaminants:** including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also may come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment prescribes

regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

## Lead in Drinking Water

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems (especially for pregnant women and young children). It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. Additional information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP)

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has provided us with a Source Water Assessment Report for our water supply. For general information or to obtain a copy of the report please visit <http://wqcdcompliance.com/ccr>. The report is located under "Source Water Assessment Reports", and then "Assessment Report by County". Select SAGUACHE County and find 155800; SAGUACHE TOWN OF or by contacting THERESE GARCIA at 719-655-2232. The Source Water Assessment Report provides a screening-level evaluation of potential contamination that **could** occur. It **does not** mean that the contamination **has or will** occur. We can use this information to evaluate the need to improve our current water treatment capabilities and prepare for future contamination threats. This can help us ensure that quality finished water is delivered to your homes. In addition, the source water assessment results provide a starting point for developing a source water protection plan. Potential sources of contamination in our source water area are listed on the next page.

Please contact us to learn more about what you can do to help protect your drinking water sources, any questions about the Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report, to learn more about our system, or to attend scheduled public meetings. We want you, our valued customers, to be informed about the services we provide and the quality water we deliver to you every day.

## Our Water Sources

<u>Source</u>	<u>Source Type</u>	<u>Water Type</u>	<u>Potential Source(s) of Contamination</u>
WELL NO 1 BIG WELL 4TH STREET	WL	GW	705 4 <sup>th</sup> Street, pump bowls dropped to 400 feet in 2002
WELL NO 2 LITTLE WELL 14TH STREET	WL	GW	365 14 <sup>th</sup> Street, pump bowls dropped to 400 feet in 2002

## Terms and Abbreviations

- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** – The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water.
- **Treatment Technique (TT)** – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **Action Level (AL)** – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment and other regulatory requirements.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** – The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)** – The level of a drinking water disinfectant, below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **Violation (No Abbreviation)** – Failure to meet a Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulation.
- **Formal Enforcement Action (No Abbreviation)** – Escalated action taken by the State (due to the risk to public health, or number or severity of violations) to bring a non-compliant water system back into compliance.
- **Variance and Exemptions (V/E)** – Department permission not to meet a MCL or treatment technique under certain conditions.
- **Gross Alpha (No Abbreviation)** – Gross alpha particle activity compliance value. It includes radium-226, but excludes radon 222, and uranium.
- **Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** – Measure of the radioactivity in water.
- **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** – Measure of the clarity or cloudiness of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the typical person.
- **Compliance Value (No Abbreviation)** – Single or calculated value used to determine if regulatory contaminant level (e.g. MCL) is met. Examples of calculated values are the 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile, Running Annual Average (RAA) and Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA).
- **Average (x-bar)** – Typical value.
- **Range (R)** – Lowest value to the highest value.
- **Sample Size (n)** – Number or count of values (i.e. number of water samples collected).
- **Parts per million = Milligrams per liter (ppm = mg/L)** – One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
- **Parts per billion = Micrograms per liter (ppb = ug/L)** – One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- **Parts per trillion = Nanograms per liter (ppt = ng/L)** – One part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.
- **Parts per quadrillion = Picograms per liter (ppq = pg/L)** – One part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.
- **Not Applicable (N/A)** – Does not apply or not available.

## Detected Contaminants

SAGUACHE TOWN OF routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table(s) show all detections found in the period of January 1 to December 31, 2012 unless otherwise noted. The State of Colorado requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination.

Therefore, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. Violations and Formal Enforcement Actions, if any, are reported in the next section of this report.

**Note:** Only detected contaminants sampled within the last 5 years appear in this report. If no tables appear in this section then no contaminants were detected in the last round of monitoring.

Microorganism Contaminants Sampled in the Distribution System							
Contaminant Name	Time Period	Results	Sample Size	MCL	MCLG	MCL Violation	Typical Sources
Coliform (TCR)	Nov	20  % Positive Samples	5	No more than 5.0% positive samples per period (If sample size is greater than or equal to 40) <b>OR</b> No more than 1 positive sample per period (If sample size is less than 40)	0	No	Naturally present in the environment

Lead and Copper Sampled in the Distribution System								
Contaminant Name	Time Period	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile AL	Sample Sites Above AL	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile AL Exceedance	Typical Sources
Copper	08/03/2011 to 08/03/2011	0.164	10	ppm	1.3		No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead	08/03/2011 to 08/03/2011	5	10	ppb	15		No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Radionuclides Sampled at the Entry Point to the Distribution System									
Contaminant Name	Year	Average	Range Low – High	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	MCL Violation	Typical Sources

Radionuclides Sampled at the Entry Point to the Distribution System									
Contaminant Name	Year	Average	Range Low – High	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	MCL Violation	Typical Sources
Gross Alpha	2012	2.98	2.59 to 3.36	2	pCi/L	15	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium	2012	0.35	0.1 to 0.6	2	pCi/L	5	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Uranium	2012	2.2	2.1 to 2.3	2	ppb	30	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Inorganic Contaminants Sampled at the Entry Point to the Distribution System									
Contaminant Name	Year	Average	Range Low – High	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	MCL Violation	Typical Sources
Antimony	2012	0.37	0 to 1.1	3	ppb	6	6	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder
Barium	2012	0.09	0.09 to 0.09	3	ppm	2	2	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	2012	0.4	0.3 to 0.49	2	ppm	4	4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate	2012	0.73	0.62 to 0.81	3	ppm	10	10	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate-Nitrite	2012	0.76	0.76 to 0.76	1	ppm	10	10	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Synthetic Organic Contaminants Sampled at the Entry Point to the Distribution System									
Contaminant Name	Year	Average	Range Low – High	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	MCL Violation	Typical Sources
2,4-D	2012	0.45	0 to 0.9	2	ppb	70	70	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops

Unregulated or Secondary Contaminants**						
**Secondary standards are <u>non-enforceable</u> guidelines for contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects (such as skin, or tooth discoloration) or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, or color) in drinking water.						
Contaminant Name	Year	Average	Range Low – High	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	Secondary Standard
Total Dissolved Solids	2012	231	210 to 252	2	ppm	500

**Violations, Significant Deficiencies, and Formal Enforcement Actions**

Violations					
Name	Category	Time Period	Health Effects	Compliance Value	TT Level or MCL
TOXAPHENE	MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR - MON	04/01/2012 - 06/30/2012	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTAL POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCB)	MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR - MON	04/01/2012 - 06/30/2012	N/A	N/A	N/A
METHOXYCHLOR	MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR - MON	04/01/2012 - 06/30/2012	N/A	N/A	N/A
LINDANE	MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR - MON	04/01/2012 - 06/30/2012	N/A	N/A	N/A
HEXACHLOROCYCLOPENTADIENE	MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR - MON	04/01/2012 - 06/30/2012	N/A	N/A	N/A
HEXACHLOROBENZENE	MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR - MON	04/01/2012 - 06/30/2012	N/A	N/A	N/A

HEPTACHLOR EPOXIDE	MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR - MON	04/01/2012 - 06/30/2012	N/A	N/A	N/A
HEPTACHLOR	MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR - MON	04/01/2012 - 06/30/2012	N/A	N/A	N/A
ENDRIN	MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR - MON	04/01/2012 - 06/30/2012	N/A	N/A	N/A
CHLORDANE	MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR - MON	04/01/2012 - 06/30/2012	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Additional Violation Information**

**Note:** If any violation relates to failing to install adequate filtration or disinfection equipment or processes, or have had a failure of such equipment or processes then the water may be inadequately treated. Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. Explanation of the violation(s) and the steps taken to resolve them:

The above violations occurred when the Town of Saguache did not meet the quarterly testing requirements issued by the State of Colorado. The lab received the samples on 6/21/2012 and prepared and analyzed them twice. The sample failed the low surrogate recoveries on each analysis and the data was not able to be reported. Due to the time required for preparation and analysis, by the time the low surrogate recoveries failure was documented and reported the quarterly compliance period had ended. The Town of Saguache retested for these containments (P508-Pesticides) on August 8, 2012, these tests were sent to the lab for testing. The Town received the results back on August 24, 2012 and the results came back showing the containments were not detected. Therefore the drinking water for the Town of Saguache continues to be safe to drink.

The Town of Saguache was in violation in regard to a Total Coliform test that was done on November 7, 2012. A water sample was taken from 230 Denver Avenue for a routine bacteria analysis, the sample was refrigerated until it was taken down to Sangre De Cristo Lab for analysis. Sangre De Cristo Labs contacted the Town on November 8, 2012. The State of Colorado CDPHE was contacted and the Town was advised that we would be required to submit six (6) more samples. One (1) from each of the Wells 1 & 2 and four (4) from different residents, this would need to be done within 24 hour period. The six (6) additional samples were submitted to Sangre De Cristo Labs, the Town was informed on Monday, November 12, 2012 that the sample came back okay and that they had faxed the results to CDPHE. Investigation of what might have caused the first sample to test positive did not reveal anything other than it was either mishandled by the Town employee or the lab. The resident from where the sample was taken was built in 2000 and the plumbing is PVC pipe with a back flow device installed outside of the home. One of the six additional samples was again taken from this resident and came back okay. The Town did five (5) more samples in December 2012, and these samples came back okay and absent from Total Coliform.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

"The Town of Saguache Public Water System ID: CO0155800 has a waiver from disinfection requirements and serves well water that has not been chlorinated."