

Your drinking water is brought to your home by:

## Spokane County Water District #3

SCWD#3 operates 7 independent water systems in Spokane County and is dedicated to making sure that every drop of water delivered to your tap is clean and safe for your family. Water District Board Meetings are held weekly on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

Spokane County Water District #3  
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(509) 536-0121 <https://SCWD3.org>

Making sure that communication flows freely between the District and our customers is very important to us. Keep yourself, and us, in the know and up to date with these tips:

- 1.) If you haven't done so already, sign up to be notified whenever local emergencies arise. Visit [www.ALERTSPOKANE.org](http://www.ALERTSPOKANE.org) to learn more and sign up.
- 2.) Check out our website at <https://SCWD3.org> for the latest news and updates throughout the District.
- 3.) Follow us on twitter!

**Purpose:** This report is provided to all of our customers. It describes your drinking water quality for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Your water utility is committed to supplying safe water that meets or surpasses state and federal standards and achieves the highest standards of customer service.

**Water Source:** Your drinking water is provided by **wells that pump water from underground sources** in and around your community. The water is recharged by precipitation in the area. These wells are closely monitored and maintained. The water is naturally filtered by the surface vegetation and the soils. However, natural systems can only do so much so we must all treat the groundwater with care to keep our drinking water clean for everyone to enjoy.

As water travels over land surfaces or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material. Water can also pick up substances resulting from human activity or the presence of animals.

Contaminants that may be present in water include: disinfectants and disinfection by-products; microbes; organic chemicals; inorganic chemicals; synthetic chemicals; radioactive contaminants; and pesticides and herbicides. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, Washington State and the USEPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

Here are some ways to can help keep our aquifer clean and limit the amount of potential contaminants that enter our water supply:

- 1.) Dispose of all chemicals properly. Take household hazardous waste to transfer stations. For help or information call: Spokane County Solid Waste Management at (509) 625-6800
- 2.) Buy the least toxic material available for your project. For more tips on going Toxic Free visit <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/toxicfreetips/>
- 3.) Don't pour anything on the ground that you wouldn't want to drink.
- 4.) Follow the directions on the label for proper use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers.
- 5.) Safely store all unused chemicals.
- 6.) Keep lawn chemicals off of streets, driveways, and sidewalks so they don't get washed into storm drains or streams.
- 7.) Fix auto fluid leaks right away.
- 8.) To reduce herbicides, use mulch or fabric covers to prevent weeds.
- 9.) Do not use chemicals near open water such as streams or rivers.

**Water Quality:** In order to ensure that your water is **clean and safe**, we test for contaminants all year long. We are proud to report that **your water meets or exceeds all state and federal regulations**. While some contaminants were found in the water, the Environmental Protection Agency has determined that your water is safe at these levels for you and your family. Keep in mind that the presence of contaminants doesn't mean the water is unsafe. MCLs are set at very stringent levels. A person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a million chance of having the described health effect. Health related standards are set by the Washington State Department of Health.

### ENGLISH

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it.

### RUSSIAN

Этот отчет содержит важную информацию о вашей питьевой воде. Попросите кого-нибудь перевести это для вас или поговорите с кем-то, кто понимает это.

### SPANISH

Este informe contiene información importante sobre su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca por usted o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

### VIETNAMESE

Báo cáo này chứa thông tin quan trọng về nước uống của bạn. Có ai đó dịch nó cho bạn, hoặc nói chuyện với ai đó hiểu nó.

**Water Use Efficiency:** In addition to monitoring the quality of the water, SCWD#3 also works to make sure we are **using water efficiently**. We set water use efficiency goals for our system in 2008, updated them in 2015, and report our progress annually.

### **DEMAND SIDE GOAL: Reduce Residential Usage by 1/2 GPD/ERU Each Year**

The District's goal in 2023 was to reduce residential water use to 262 gallons per day per equivalent residential unit (GPD/ERU). Currently it's at 284 GPD/ERU, so we were unable to meet our goal this year. This is an increase of 912,000 gallons for the year. This District will continue to run a rate structure that promotes water conservation, follow up with customers who have leak alarms on their water meters, and provide customer education for water saving practices in hope to reach our goal in 2024.

### **SUPPLY SIDE GOAL: Reduce the District's Average Distribution System Leakage Below 9.5% for the Next 6 Years**

Our average is currently 6.6%, so we were able to meet our goal this year. Annually, the District sets aside a budget specifically for leak detection services and equipment. We will continue to be aggressive with early leak detection and repairs to maintain our goal for years to come.

**Outdoor Water Conservation Tips:** Did you know that average homeowners use 30-60% of their total water use for the year outdoors? And experts estimate that 50% of that water used outdoors goes to waste from evaporation, wind, or runoff due to overwatering. Here are some easy tips to get you started:

- 1.) To prevent losing the majority of your water to evaporation, avoid watering lawns and gardens on windy and hot days. Only use sprinklers in the cool hours of the morning and evening to maximize the amount of water that reaches the plant roots. The best time to water is before 9:00 am or after 6:00 pm to achieve the best possible saturation.
- 2.) Adjust sprinkler heads periodically so you are only watering your grass or garden, and not sidewalks or streets.
- 3.) Avoid overwatering. Lawns only require 1 inch of water per week. Set out an empty can or bowl to determine how long it takes your favorite sprinkler to fill the container 1 inch. This watering pattern will encourage healthier and deeper grass roots.
- 4.) Increase the height of your mower. A taller lawn provides shade to the roots and helps retain soil moisture so your lawn requires less water. Consider adding a mulch kit to your lawnmower. Leaving grass clippings on the lawn to decompose will nourish the grass and reduce your need for fertilizers.

For more information regarding ways to save water, visit our website regularly at <https://SCWD3.org>, follow us on Twitter, visit [Spokanewateringnerds.org/tips-to-save-water](https://Spokanewateringnerds.org/tips-to-save-water) or search "water conservation tips" in your web browser.

**Free Online Bill Pay:** SCWD#3 switched online bill pay providers to **xpress BILL PAY**. This change is designed to make online bill pay easier and best of all **it's free!** **xpress BILL PAY** is a secure online bill payment system that offers 24-7 access to your utility account to make payments with credit cards, debit cards, or electronic funds transfers. If you have multiple accounts, **xpress BILL PAY** gives customers the ability to manage all their service provider billing accounts from a single login. **Auto Pay** allows customers to set up automatic payments and not worry about them again. A complete history of payment confirmations, online transactions, and **Water Consumption History** are also provided. Email reminder alerts are sent to customers when bills arrive, when they're due, and when they're paid. Visit the website at [www.xpressbillpay.com](http://www.xpressbillpay.com) and sign up today! Or download the mobile app!

**Important Note:** Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised 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 from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants or for more information about contaminants and potential health effects call the **Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791**.

**From Your Local Water Utility  
Spokane County Water District #3**  
<https://SCWD3.org>



## SOURCE WATER TESTING (sample taken at the well)

CONTAMINANT	SAMPLE YEAR	UNITS	MCLG	MCL	HIGHEST DETECTION	POSSIBLE SOURCE
Nitrate	2023	ppm	10	10	ND	Runoff from Fertilizer Use; Leaching from Septic Tanks, Sewage; Erosion of Natural Deposits
Arsenic	2018	ppb	0	10	1.4	Erosion of Natural Deposits; Runoff from Orchards; Runoff from Glass and Electronics Production Wastes
Barium	2018	Ppm	2	2	0.09	Erosion of Natural Deposits; Discharge of Drilling Wastes; Discharge of Metal Refineries
Gross Alpha	2020	pCi/L	n/a	15	ND	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Radium 228	2021	pCi/L	n/a	5	2.81	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Synthetic Organic Chemicals	2015	ppb + ppt	Varies by chemical	Varies by chemical	ND	Varies by Chemical
Volatile Organic Chemicals	2022	ppb	Varies by chemical	Varies by chemical	ND	Varies by Chemical

## DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TESTING (sample taken at the tap)

CONTAMINANT	SAMPLE YEAR	UNITS	MCLG	AL	90 <sup>TH</sup> PERCENTILE	POSSIBLE SOURCE
Lead	2022	ppb	0	15	0.56	Corrosion of the Household Plumbing Systems; Erosion of Natural Deposits; Leaching from Wood Preservatives.
Copper	2022	ppb	1300	1300	65	
CONTAMINANT	SAMPLE YEAR	UNITS	MCLG	MCL	HIGHEST DETECTION	POSSIBLE SOURCE
Total Trihalomethanes	2023	ppb	0	80	ND	By-product of Chlorination
Haloacetic Acids	2023	ppb	0	60	ND	By-product of Chlorination
E.coli Bacteria	2023		0	A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also E.coli positive	ND	Human and Animal Fecal Waste

**RADON** is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is common in the Spokane area. Exposure to excessive amounts of radon may increase cancer risk. Your drinking water, in most cases is a very small source of radon in indoor air. For local assistance concerning radon in your home, contact the Spokane County Health District at (509) 324-1560 ext. 5

**LEAD:** If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Spokane County Water District #3 is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. 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. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **1-800-426-4791** or online at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

### ABBREVIATIONS:

**AL** – Action Level – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**MCL** – Maximum Contaminant Level – The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water.

**MCLG** – Maximum Contaminant Level Goal – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

**ND** – Not Detected

**NA** – Not Applicable

**pCi/L** – Pico Curies per Liter – a unit of radioactivity

**90<sup>th</sup> Percentile** – 90% of at-risk homes had this concentration or less of lead/copper.

**Ppm** – Parts per million or milligrams per liter. About 4 drops in a 55-gallon barrel or 1 second out of 12 days would represent 1 ppm.

**Ppb** – Parts per billion or micrograms per liter. About 1 drop of water in a swimming pool or 1 second out of 32 years would represent 1 ppb.

**Ppt** – Parts per trillion or nanograms per liter. About 1 drop in 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools or 1 second out of 31,710 years would represent 1 ppt.

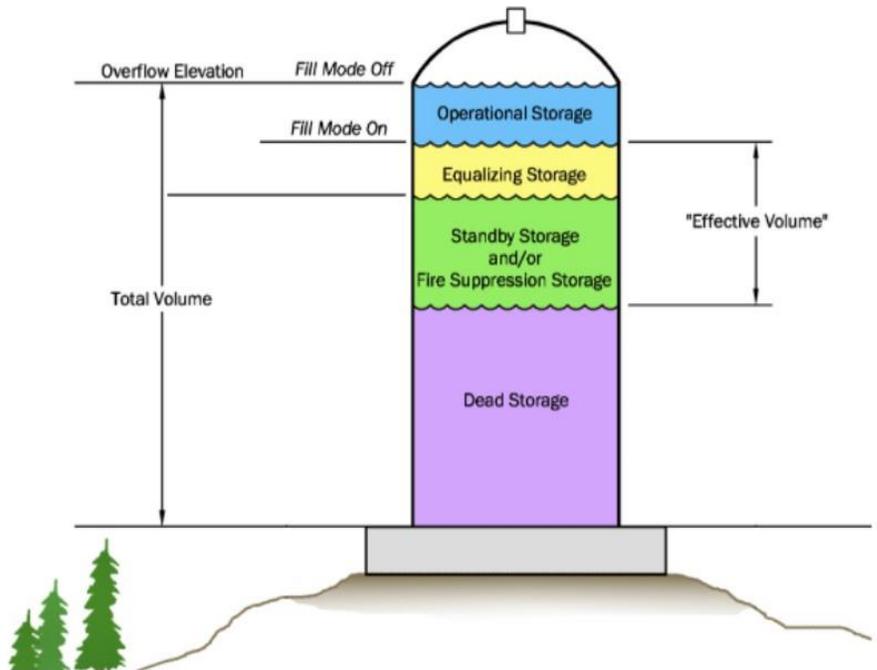
## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

### Emergency Backup Power

**Generator:** In 2023, the District installed an emergency backup generator at our pumphouse on Westlake Drive. We also installed an automatic transfer switch, which will automatically start the generator when a power outage occurs, creating a steady supply of electricity to the building. This 100,000-watt diesel generator is capable of producing enough electricity to power all of the internal components within the pumphouse, including the well, to keep residents in water in the event a power outage occurs. This increases reliability to the water system and helps prevent freezing pipes during an ice storm event or with fire danger during summer dry spells from wind or other events that may impact the power grid.



**Long Term Improvements** include adding a reservoir to the system, but will be dependent on the District's ability to secure an easement to nearby land to the west of Westlake Dr. for a reservoir site. Water reservoirs serve several purposes by providing operating, equalization, and fire suppression storage. The top portion of water levels in a storage tank are for operational storage (generally 5-10 feet) which calls for the pump to cycle on and off while giving the motor an opportunity to cool off between cycles. The middle to top section of a tank, just below the operating storage, is the equalization storage which provides consistent pressure (ideally between 60-80 psi) throughout the day. Then, generally the bottom 1/2 to 2/3 of a storage tank is reserved for fire suppression storage which is a designated amount of water needed for firefighting purposes. For a residential neighborhood, typical fire flow is 1,000 gallons per minute for 1 hour which equates to reserving about 60,000 gallons of water for supply at a minimum pressure of 20 psi. Dead storage is another portion of a tank at the very bottom and is the amount of water necessary to maintain minimum pressure to the distribution system and prevent the area from running out of water. Carefully designated reservoir sites and tank design can eliminate dead storage if the tank can be placed properly in elevation above a distribution network. However, geography and land acquisition play an important role in the ability to achieve this.



Picture courtesy of City of Ocean Shores, WA <osgov.com>