



Safer Water, North Texas 2019 Progress Update & Initiatives

4/8/2019

We want to share what's been going on behind the scenes so far in our quest for SAFER WATER. We are aware that some of you, while VERY frustrated about the SERIOUS lack of concern from the Water District, are also feeling a bit defeated as to what can actually be DONE to fix this issue!

Here's what we've been up to so far...!

definitions will be added at the end of each segment as needed

Public Facebook Page

We now have a public Facebook page! Unlike the posts in our closed group, the ones on our public page are shareable!

<https://www.facebook.com/saferwaterntx/>

Request for Policy Change

On January 31, 2019, our attorney sent a 19-page letter to NTMWD and the TCEQ. Using results from independent tests performed during the 2018 chlorine burn, excerpts from the Texas Administrative Code, and portions of EPA and TCEQ documents, we made a case for requiring NTMWD to perform official DBP[^] compliance tests during all future chlorine burns. Our goal was to ensure that NTMWD's annual Consumer Confidence Reports reflect the TRUE maximum levels of DBPs to which our citizens have been exposed!

Unfortunately, the TCEQ indicated that NTMWD will continue to be exempt from measuring DBPs during month-long chlorine burns. The reason: DBP testing is mandated to take place under "standard operating conditions". If the duration of a chlorine burn is "a month or less (10% of the time)", it falls outside of standard operating conditions. Huge LOOPHOLE!

[^](disinfection byproducts: results of chemical reactions between organic matter and disinfectants. Ex. Chloroform)



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Independent Testing

Last year, we urged NTMWD and several cities to conduct TTHM[^] & HAA5[^] testing during the chlorine burn. We were initially met with resistance, but NTMWD, the City of Plano, and the City of Frisco ultimately stepped up and ran their own independent tests. (Yay! That's a small victory for us!) This year, they pledged even more testing!

[^](trihalomethanes: environmental pollutants, many of which are known to cause cancer)

[^](haloacetic acids: some also known to cause cancer)

both cancer links cited in reports from the EPA

NTMWD

2018: Conducted **ONE** set of independent TTHM & HAA5 tests during the chlorine burn.

2019: As of December 2018, began conducting **MONTHLY** independent TTHM & HAA5 TESTS. (Small victory, but we'll take it!)

City of Plano

2018: Conducted **ONE** set of TTHM & HAA5 independent tests during the chlorine burn.

2019: Conducted **TWO** sets of TTHM & HAA5 tests during the chlorine burn. The results will be published in the city's 2019 Consumer Confidence Report, however they will be listed separately from the TCEQ-mandated test results.

City of Frisco

2018: Conducted **ONE** set of TTHM & HAA5 tests during the chlorine burn.

2019: Conducting **SIX** sets of TTHM & HAA5 tests during, and around, the chlorine burn: 1 pre-test, 4 weekly tests, and 1 post-test (two weeks after end of the burn) (Yay Frisco!)



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2019 Initiatives

Here's how YOU can make a difference in your city!

Encourage City Council Members To:

- Push for best practices in water treatment
 - Cities should clean their water storage tanks every 3-5 years, per EPA recommendation (some North Texas cities haven't cleaned their tanks in over TEN YEARS! YUCK!!). Controlling silt and sediment levels is key to reducing biological growth that tends to burn up the residual chlorine and cause the formation of DBPs. (think... the smell of an ill-kept indoor pool. Those are DBPs you're smelling!!)
 - Conduct the recommended hydrant flushing, ESPECIALLY during chlorine burns!
- Pledge to conduct independent tests during future chlorine burns, and include the results in their annual Consumer Confidence Reports.
- Champion the timely implementation of biofilters at NTMWD's Wylie plant. In 2014, NTMWD added ozone disinfection to its treatment process, but WITHOUT biofiltration. The EPA warns against this practice due to the risk of nitrification (an increase in biofilm/sludge) in systems that use chloramine. Nitrification leads to increased DBPs, and that sludge, if not flushed out at the hydrants, goes right into your homes!!

Prepare for City Council Elections (May 4th)

Learn where each candidate stands on water quality so YOU can make an informed decision at the polls! We HAVE to remind these city officials that THEY work for US!

Attend City Council Meetings

Review agendas for upcoming city council meetings. If you are aware of an upcoming meeting at which water treatment will be discussed, please post the details in the Safer Water, North Texas Community group! We want as many members as possible to attend!! This makes a HUGE impact!

Tips:

- Check your city's website for meeting agendas 72 hours prior to their scheduled dates.
- If you cannot attend a meeting in person, look for a live stream. Many cities stream their meetings.
- E-mail/call your city council members or mayor! Let them know that you are not OK with the current water treatment standards!