



# Ocoee Utility District

## Water Quality Report for 2017



### Is my drinking water safe?

Yes, our water meets all of EPA's health standards. We have conducted numerous tests for over 80 contaminants that may be in drinking water. As you will see in the chart on the back, we only detected 11 of these contaminants. We found all of these contaminants at safe levels.

### What is the source of my water?

Your water, which is ground water, comes from wells at the Carpenter Spring, and the spring and wells at Wildwood Spring. A small portion is purchased from Cleveland Utilities and Eastside Utility District. Our goal is to protect our water from contaminants, and we are working with the State to determine the vulnerability of our water source to **potential** contamination. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the untreated water sources serving water to this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of untreated water sources to **potential** contamination. To ensure safe drinking water, all public water systems treat and routinely test their water. Water sources have been rated as highly susceptible, reasonably susceptible, moderately susceptible or slightly susceptible based on geologic factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. The Ocoee Utility District water sources rated as follows in terms of potential contamination: Carpenter Springs has not yet been rated. Wildwood Springs rated as highly susceptible. Cleveland Utilities rated as highly susceptible. Eastside Utility District rated as reasonably susceptible. A wellhead protection plan is available for your review by contacting Tim Lawson or Buck Owen at the Ocoee Utility District between 8:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. weekdays.

An explanation of Tennessee's Source Water Assessment Program, the Source Water Assessment summaries, susceptibility scorings, and the overall TDEC report to EPA can be viewed online at [www.state.tn.us/environment/dws/dwassess.shtml](http://www.state.tn.us/environment/dws/dwassess.shtml).

### Why are there contaminants in my water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. Community water systems are required to disclose the detection of contaminants; however, bottled water companies are not required to comply with this regulation. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that 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 (800-426-4791).

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

### How can I get involved?

Our Board of Commissioners meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 1:00 P.M. at the Ocoee Utility District office. Please contact the office at 423-559-8505 if you wish to participate in these meetings.

The Commissioners of the Ocoee Utility District serve four year terms. Vacancies on the Board of Commissioners are filled by appointment by either the Bradley County Mayor or the Polk County Executive from a list of three nominees certified by the Board of Commissioners to either the Bradley County Mayor or the Polk County Executive. Decisions by the Board of Commissioners on customer complaints brought before the Board of Commissioners under the District's customer complaint policy may be

reviewed by the Utility Management Review Board of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation pursuant to Section 7-82-702(7) of Tennessee Code Annotated.

### Is our water system meeting other rules that govern our operations?

The State and EPA require us to test and report on our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We have met all of these requirements. Results of unregulated contaminant analysis are available upon request. We want you to know that we pay attention to all the rules.

### Other Information

Due to all water containing dissolved contaminants, occasionally your water may exhibit slight discoloration. We strive to maintain the standards to prevent this. We at Ocoee Utility District work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Contaminants that may be present in source water:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as 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, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, or can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

### Do I Need To Take Special Precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have under-gone 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 not only their drinking water, but food preparation, personal hygiene, and precautions in handling infants and pets from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

### Lead in Drinking Water

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. Ocoee Utility District 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



drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

### **What's New at the Ocoee Utility District?**

At the Ocoee Utility District, we are committed to providing our customers with the best service and highest quality water 365 days per year. Ocoee Utility District water and sewer bills can now be paid on-line at our website where we have recently added new features to enhance the experience: [www.oceeeutility.com](http://www.oceeeutility.com). This service is fast, convenient, and will save customers time when paying their bill. We would like to invite everyone to take a look and try out our site, as there are a lot of facts and information in the site as well. You can also visit our Facebook page for additional information and updates from the District. We also have partnered with the Servline Insurance program to provide our residential customers coverage for high bills due to leaks and also an option to cover the customers service line repairs. A commercial leak protection program is now available for our non-residential and non-agricultural customers.

Following the events of September 2001, we realize that our customers are concerned about the security of their drinking water. We urge the public to report any suspicious activities at any utility facilities, including treatment plants, tanks, fire hydrants, etc. to 423-559-8505.

### **Think before you flush!**

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of Tennessee's waterways by disposing in one of our permanent pharmaceutical take back bins. There are many take back bins located across the community, to find a convenient location please visit:

[www.tn.gov/environment/sustainable-practices\\_unwanted-prescriptions.shtml](http://www.tn.gov/environment/sustainable-practices_unwanted-prescriptions.shtml)

# Water Quality Data

## What does this chart mean?

- **MCLG** - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or 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.
- **MCL** - Maximum Contaminant Level, or the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, 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.
- **MRDL**: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or MRDL: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.
- **MRDLG**: Maximum residual disinfectant level goal. 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.
- **CU** = Cleveland Utilities, **EU** = Eastside Utility District

### Discretionary language regarding the use of averages to report levels of some contamination

- **AL** - Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** – explained as a relation to time and money as one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
- **Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter** - explained as a relation to time and money as one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- **TT** - Treatment Technique, or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	N	1 EUD	0-1	2017	Colonies Per 100ml	0	TT Trigger	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity	N	1.1	0.01-1.1	Daily	NTU	N/A	TT	Soil runoff
Nitrate	N	1.66	0.00-1.66	10/17	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks,sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	N	90 <sup>th</sup> /0= 0.161	0-0.282	2017	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing Systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	N	90 <sup>th</sup> /0= 1.88	0-5.36 EUD	2017	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing Systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Trihalo-Methanes *	N	74.6 C.U.	0-74.6	2017	ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water Chlorination.
Total Haloacetic Acids	N	77.1 C.U.	0-77.1	2017	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water Chlorination.
Fluoride	N	0.91 EUD	0.0 To 0.91	Daily E.U. & C.U.	ppm	4.0	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Chlorine	N	3.9 max	0.6 To 3.9	Daily	ppm	MRDLG =4	MRDL= 4	Water additive used to control Microbes.
Sodium	N	8.73 E.U.	0-8.73	2017	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment
Total Organic Carbons**	N	0.84 Avg.	0.42-1.04	Quarterly	ppm	TT	TT	Naturally present in the environment

\* While your drinking water meets EPA's standards for trihalomethanes, it does contain low levels. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Please note: Turbidity does not present any risk to your health. We monitor turbidity, which is a measure of the cloudiness of water, because it is a good indicator that our filtration system is functioning properly.

### Other Information

During the most recent round of Lead and Copper testing, 100% of the homes tested were below the action level. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline ( 1-800-426-4791 ).

The Ocoee Utility District provides water to our customers primarily from our two ground water treatment plants. However, some customers source of water at least part of the time is from either Eastside Utility District or Cleveland Utilities. In reporting the water quality results on the chart included in this CCR, the levels of each contaminant listed may be from a source that does not provide water to your service, which means the maximum level reported may be much higher than what would have been recordable at your service.

<sup>5</sup>Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

The Ocoee Utility District does not fluoridate the water treated at our two water treatment facilities. All results listed herein for fluoride are data provided by Eastside Utility District and Cleveland Utilities. Approximately 15% of our customers receive fluoridated water as a result.

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2016 Unregulated Contaminant	Average Level Detected ug/l	Range ug/l
Chromium	0.34	0.28 – 0.39
Cobalt	<1	<1
Molybdenum	<1	<1
Strontium	29	28-31
Vanadium	0.40	0.20 – 0.42
Chromium - 6	0.28	0.28
Chlorate	142.87	21.6 – 260

Unregulated Contaminants: Contaminants for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. For additional information call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800)426-4791.