

# 2008 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report



## PRESTONWOOD FOREST UD

*Yes, your water  
is safe to drink*



### Our Water Meets all Federal (EPA) and State Requirements

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) assessed our system, Prestonwood Forest Utility District (PFUD), and determined that our water is safe to drink. The analysis was made by using the data in the tables in this report which uses testing results from 2004 through 2008. Because our water meets all state and federal drinking water health standards for the sampling period, there may not be any health based benefits to purchasing bottled water or point of use devices. PFUD system identification number is 101-0467. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what's in your drinking water.

**En Español – Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Si tiene preguntas o discusiones sobre este reporte en espanol, favor de llamar al tel. 281.376.8802 par hablar con una persona bilingue en espanol.**

### Table Information

The tables contain chemical constituents which have been found in your drinking water. The TCEQ and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) require water systems to test up to 97 constituents. Only six regulated constituents were detected in PFUD's water, and these were well below the maximum contaminant level allowed in drinking water. The agencies do not require some contaminants to be monitored annually because their concentrations are not expected to vary. This report states the results of the most current water testing from 2004 through 2008.



REGULATED INORGANICS									
Year Tested	Contaminant Detected	Unit of Measure	Average Level*	Minimum Level*	Maximum Level*	Allowed (EPA's MCL)	MCLG	Meets Standards	Possible source of Contaminant
2008	Arsenic <sup>‡</sup>	ppb	6.500	4.600	8.400	10.0**	0.0	yes	Erosion of natural deposits
** The arsenic MCL of 10 was made effective January 23, 2006. Prior to this date the MCL was 50 ppb with no MCLG.									
2008	Barium	ppm	0.235	0.217	0.252	2.0	2.0	yes	Erosion of natural deposits
2008	Fluoride	ppm	0.430	0.350	0.510	4.0	4.0	yes	Erosion of natural deposits
2008	Nitrate	ppm	0.010	0.010	0.010	10.0	10.0	yes	Erosion of natural deposits
UNREGULATED INORGANICS									
2008	Sodium	ppm	101.00	86.00	115.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	Erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

<sup>‡</sup> **ARSENIC:** The maximum contaminant level (MCL) for arsenic was reduced to 10 parts per billion in January of 2006. While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS								
Tested	Constituent	Unit	Average	Minimum	Maximum	MRDL	MRDLG	Source
2008	Free Chlorine	ppm	1.340	0.400	3.200	4.0	4.0	Disinfectant used to control microbes
DISINFECTANT BYPRODUCTS								
Tested	Constituent	Unit	Average	Minimum	Maximum	MCL	Source	
2007	Total Haloacetic Acids	ppb	1.700	1.10	2.300	60.0	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	
2007	Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	6.100	2.20	9.900	80.0	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	

**Total Trihalomethanes & Haloacetic Acids represents four different constituents. The maximum is the sum of all four.**

\* When there is only one sample, the average, minimum, and maximum will be the same number.

### Source Water Assessment

TCEQ completed an assessment of your source water and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for your water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detections of these contaminants will be found in this Water Quality Report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, contact 281.376.8802.

### Where Your Water Comes From

PFUD obtains its water from two wells, here in the District. The wells draw water from the Evangeline Aquifer.

### TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT

**Contaminant:** The technical term for anything else in water except pure water is "contaminant." Technically, pure, fresh orange juice can be considered water which has been "contaminated" by the oil, orange pulp and flavorings in the orange which make it taste so good. Obviously, some contaminants aren't good and can actually be hazardous to your health at specific levels. Those are the ones we test and measure.

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

### MCL, Max. Contaminant Level:

The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. MCLs are set at very stringent levels.

### MCLG, Max. Contaminant Level Goal:

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

### MRDL, Max. Residual Disinfectant Level:

The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

### MRDLG, Max. 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 contamination.

n/a: not established at this time

**ppm – Part per million:** One part per million equals one teaspoon in 1,302 gallons, which is enough water to fill a typical bathtub over 40 times.

**ppb – Part per billion:** One part per billion equals one teaspoon in 1,302,000 gallons, which is enough water to fill a typical bathtub over 40,000 times.

## What's in the Water

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's **Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 1.800.426.4791**, or at the following web sites: [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater) and [www.epa.gov/OW](http://www.epa.gov/OW)

Bottled water information may be obtained at: [www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bw/bwinx.asp](http://www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bw/bwinx.asp).



## Secondary Constituents

Many contaminants (such as calcium, sodium, or iron) which are often found in drinking water can cause taste, color, and odor problems. These constituents are called secondary contaminants and are regulated by the State of Texas, not EPA.

The secondary constituents are not causes for health concerns. Therefore, secondaries are not required to be reported in this document, but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

## Additional Testing

Additional testing is done daily at the water plant and throughout the community at various locations to ensure that a safe level of disinfectant is in the system. Water samples are sent to an independent state-approved laboratory to verify the absence of harmful bacteria. No such bacteria has been detected in this water system.

LEAD AND COPPER — TESTED AT THE CUSTOMER'S TAP (SAMPLES COLLECTED FROM 20 HOMES)						
Year Tested	Substance	Unit of Measure	90th Percentile	# of Homes Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Possible Sources of Lead and Copper
2008	Lead	ppb	8.000	0 of 20	15.0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems;
2008	Copper	ppm	0.306	0 of 20	1.3	Erosion of natural deposits

## Information on Lead in Water

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. You can reduce lead consumption by running your faucet for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using the water for drinking or cooking. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791.

## Keep Texas Waters Clean

Pharmaceuticals and personal care products can pass through sewer treatment plants in very minute amounts and find their way into our creeks, rivers, and streams. **Controlling what goes down the drain is the easiest and most effective way to protect the environment.**

Dispose of unused prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, and other personal products such as cosmetics and fragrances properly in the trash and not in the toilet. For more information on how to dispose of household products visit, [www.wef.org/AboutWater/ForThePublic](http://www.wef.org/AboutWater/ForThePublic) then click Fact Sheets and select Drug Free Drains.



## KIDS — Be a Water Super Hero!

Have fun and learn about water at these web sites:

[www.dcwasa.com/kids](http://www.dcwasa.com/kids)  
[www.epa.gov/safewater/kids](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/kids)  
 and [www.twdb.state.tx.us/kids](http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/kids)



## How to Find Leaks

*Is your water bill higher than normal? You need to look for a leak - to save money and save water.*

Dripping, trickling faucets, showerheads and toilets can waste from 75 to several hundred gallons of water a week depending on the size of the leaks.

Worn-out washers are the main cause when faucets and showerheads leak. A new washer generally costs about 25 cents.

That trickling sound coming from the bathroom is probably a leaky toilet but keep in mind sometimes toilet leaks can be silent.

TRY THIS: Put a couple of drops of food coloring in the tank of the toilet and wait an hour or so. If water in the bowl turns color then the toilet is leaking.

Most likely the flapper or flush valve needs to be replaced. Parts are inexpensive and easy to replace.



## Outstanding Performance

PFUD has been awarded Outstanding Performance Certificates for no violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act bacteriological sampling rule from 2001-2007. The District continues with the same performance record to date.

## Public Participation

PFUD meets at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the communities' club house, 13702 Prestonwood Forest Dr. (intersection of Prestonwood Forest Dr. & Glencliff).

Any last minute cancellations will be posted on the bulletin board at this location.

Call 281.376.8802 for directions.

## Have Questions

If you would like more information about particular health risks or contaminants, you may call the EPA at 1.800.426.4791, or the Harris County Health Department at 713.439.6000.

The District's Operator, Water District Management (WDM), may also be able to assist you with your questions, 281.376.8802.



## SPECIAL NOTICE for the ELDERLY, INFANTS, CANCER PATIENTS, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune problems:

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 undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS, those that are undergoing treatment with steroids, 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 care providers.

EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 1.800.426.4791.