



**FRESNO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION**

P.O. Box 11867, Fresno, California 93775 Tel: (559) 445-3357 FAX: (559) 445-3379
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GROSS ALPHA RADIOACTIVITY NOTICE

SUBJECT: GROSS ALPHA RADIOACTIVITY CONTAMINATION IN YOUR WATER SUPPLY

Sampling of your water well has confirmed the presence of **gross alpha radioactivity** at a concentration that exceeds the State of California, Department of Public Health (CDPH) maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 15 pico curies per liter (pCi/l).

CDPH sets drinking water standards and has determined that gross alpha radioactivity may pose a health concern at certain levels of exposure. Gross alpha radioactivity is caused by emissions from radium and/or uranium. Both radium and uranium are naturally occurring elements in groundwater in certain areas of Fresno County.

Exposure to high levels of radium results in an increased risk of bone, liver, and breast cancer. Exposure to high levels of uranium can cause kidney disease. It is not known to cause cancer, but can decay into other radioactive materials that may.

It is recommended that consumption of water containing levels of gross alpha radioactivity exceeding the MCL be avoided and that bottled water be used for drinking and cooking purposes.

Although there is technology available for treating existing wells for removal of gross alpha radioactivity, radium, or uranium, such treatment requires ongoing maintenance, and monitoring to ensure proper performance. Certain types of treatment may also generate hazardous wastes, which may result in costly disposal issues.

Should you be interested in positively identifying the radioactive elements in your water supply, please have your well water tested for uranium and/or radium by a laboratory that is State-Certified to perform the analyses.

For more information, please contact your family physician or the Fresno County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division at (559) 445-3357.