



## **SUPPLY SHORTAGE UPDATE FROM CITY OF FIFE AND TACOMA PUBLIC UTILITIES**

**June 21, 2021** -- Fife residents might have heard about a shortage of supplies for chlorinating water. While this news is concerning, Fife's water supplier, Tacoma Public Utilities, has more than a month's supply of materials to keep drinking water safe. This supply situation is the result of the loss of a primary electrical transformer, which temporarily halted production at the chemical manufacturing plant in Longview.

The supplier's estimated date for resuming production is Monday, June 28. Tacoma Public Utilities has notified the City of Fife that it has a 38-day supply of water-treatment materials on hand at this time. Tacoma Public Utilities believes it is in good shape to withstand this shortage and water safety will not be impacted.

Here's what Fife residents should know:

- Tacoma Water has an ample supply of clean, drinking water. This is not a water shortage. Your water is safe to drink, and the utility's treatment facilities are functioning properly.
- Chlorine gas and sodium hypochlorite are used in the treatment process to disinfect drinking water, helping ensure its continued safety. As part of the regular resiliency protocol, Tacoma Water has more than a 30-day surplus of chlorine on hand, which will last longer than the anticipated time for the chlorine supplier to return to normal operations. Tacoma Water is working to extend the available supply by adjusting chemical dosages and activating sources that use alternate disinfection.
- Tacoma Water is supplementing the water supply from the Green River with groundwater wells, from the underground aquifer in Tacoma, that do not rely on chlorine from this supplier to maintain drinking water quality.
- Tacoma Water may choose to encourage customers to use less water, which will in turn use less of the chlorine supply.
- Tacoma Water does not anticipate water customers having to take any action and water customers should not be concerned about the safety of their water supply at this time. In the unlikely event of a prolonged chlorine shortage, Tacoma Water will advise the public of any safety measures that should be taken, if any are needed. Those measures could include a boil water advisory. Tacoma Water will keep customers informed of any such instructions.
- Tacoma Public Utilities supplies the City of Fife all of its water through intertied connections. That water is primarily surface water from the Green River in south King County. Water in the Green River comes from a 231-square-mile forested area in the Cascade Mountains between Chinook and Snoqualmie passes. This uninhabited area serves as a collection point for melting snow and seasonal rainfall. Interested in reading more about our water supply and annual testing of your water? [Visit this page.](#)

Please keep checking back for updates. The City of Fife will send out an alert to water customers, should there be a need for water customers to take any action. Visit [cityoffife.org/cityupdates](http://cityoffife.org/cityupdates) for more information or visit the Tacoma Public Utilities website at <https://www.mytpu.org/chlorine/>.