



# BARNSTABLE FIRE DISTRICT WATER DEPARTMENT

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## BARNSTABLE FIRE DISTRICT WATER DEPARTMENT Important Information about Your Drinking Water

### *The reason for this public notification?*

The Board of Water Commissioners wishes to inform persons that consume the drinking water provided by Barnstable Fire District that our drinking water contains small amounts of Per and Polyfluoroalkyl compounds. PFAS results have been below the Maximum Containment level set by the State of Massachusetts. PFAS levels from water sampling in 2021 have ranged from 7.11 parts per trillion to 19.35 parts per trillion.

PFAS compounds are called forever chemicals and they are problematic due to their long half-lives, meaning they can bioaccumulate in our bodies. Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's guidance currently recommends that sensitive subgroups—

**PREGNANT WOMEN, NURSING MOTHERS AND INFANTS NOT  
CONSUME DRINKING WATER WITH PFAS LEVELS ABOVE 20 ng/L  
or PARTS PER TRILLION.**

THIS NOTICE IS ONLY FOR WATER USED FOR DRINKING OR COOKING PURPOSES. CONSUMERS WITH CONCERNS ABOUT PFAS LEVELS SHOULD USE BOTTLED WATER OR FILTER THEIR TAP WATER THROUGH A CARBON FILTER THAT CAN BE ATTACHED TO A FAUCET, CAN BE INSTALLED UNDER A FAUCET, OR THAT CAN STAND ALONE. CONSUMERS CHOOSE A FILTER AT THEIR OWN RISK.

The following is a link to a list of National Sanitary Foundation water filter specifications:  
<https://info.nsf.org/Certified/DWTU/Listings.asp?ProductFunction=053%7CPFOA+Reduction&ProductFunction=053%7CPFOS+Reduction&ProductFunction=P473%7CPFOA+Reduction&ProductFunction=P473%7CPFOS+Reduction&ProductType=&submit2=Search>

### *What should you do?*

- *You do not need to do anything at this time because the source causing elevated PFAS levels is being blended to reduce the levels of PFAS below 20 PPT. If you have concerns about PFAS in your drinking water, then a point-of-use filtration device is an option you may want to consider.*
- *If you have specific health concerns regarding your past exposure, you should consult a health professional, such as your doctor.*

### ***Where can I get more information?***

For more information, please contact Barnstable Fire District Superintendent Thomas Rooney at email address [bfdwatersupt@barnstablefiredistrict.com](mailto:bfdwatersupt@barnstablefiredistrict.com), mailing address P.O. Bo 546 Barnstable, Ma 02632, or phone number 508-362-6498 x 102.

You can also get more information from the following sources:

- MassDEP at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

### **What is the water department doing?**

The Water Department is blending water from different wells to minimize public exposure to PFAS. The Department will reactivate the District's oldest source, Well #1, because PFAS has not been detected. Water from Well #1 with help to reduce PFAS concentrations in the drinking water. The Department is also developing plans to build a filtration plant to remove PFAS from the drinking water produce at Wells #2 & #5.

### **What will it cost?**

The Board of Water Commissioner want to make our customers aware that the cost of water will be going up! The necessary infrastructure improvements required to reduce and remove PFAS will require a yearly increase of water rates charged by the water department.

To protect the health of people who consume Barnstable's water, the Water Commissioners want our customers to know that the cost of rebuilding Well #1 and building a filtration plant will cost approximately 10 million dollars. The Fire District has received a two hundred-thousand-dollar grant from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust, and the Fire District has also obtained one million four hundred thousand dollars zero percent financing from the Massachusetts State Revolving Fund. The Fire District will continue to seek grant opportunities as they become available. The Fire District has also entered a Class Action Lawsuit to seek reimbursement from the manufacturers of PFAS chemicals. The Fire District has been selected as a bellwether for the lawsuit. Barnstable Fire District Prudential Committee, and the Board of Water Commissioners, will make every effort to keep our customers informed, and to minimize the cost burden placed on District residents to remove PFAS from the drinking water.

### **DROUGHT STATUS AND WATER RESTRICTIONS**

The State of Massachusetts has issued a Drought Advisory for the Cape Cod region because of the currently mild drought conditions.

The Board of Water Commissioners ask that District residents observe the following voluntary outdoor watering restrictions:

1. No outdoor watering between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
2. Water only when necessary. If rain is forecast, pause your outdoor watering.
3. Follow an irrigation schedule based on house number. Even number homes irrigate on Monday, Wednesday, & Friday, and odd number homes water Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday.
4. All automatic lawn sprinkler systems should have a rain sensor to prevent unneeded law watering. Lawn sprinkler timers should be closely monitored to minimize watering.
5. Maintain a lawn height of 2" to reduce watering.
6. Minimize car washing. Do not use water to sweep outdoor surfaces.

The Water Department may be required to institute a Mandatory Watering Ban if water levels in USGS wells fall below prescribed levels for 60 consecutive days.