

City of Ironwood
213 S. Marquette St.
Ironwood, MI 49938



Phone: (906) 932-5050
Fax: (906) 932-5745
www.cityofironwood.org

August 22, 2019

Second Round of Manganese Testing – Test Result Update

The Western Upper Peninsula Health Department (WUPHD) has completed two rounds of manganese sampling for the City of Ironwood water system. The samples were submitted to a State of Michigan approved testing facility, White Water Associates, Inc. for analysis.

During the first round of manganese testing the Western Upper Peninsula Health Department initially sampled 25 residential homes around the City of Ironwood as well as the feed point to the City of Hurley, Wisconsin (located on Silver Street at the Montreal River Bridge) and the City of Ironwood Pump Station discharge point (located at the City of Ironwood well field off Pump Station Road). The manganese test results ranged from 1.6 parts per billion (ppb) to 120 ppb for the 25 residential properties sampled. The feed point to the City of Hurley measured 45 ppb. The City of Ironwood Pump Station discharge point measured 290 ppb.

The second round of manganese sampling performed by the WUPHD was conducted with an additional sixteen (16) samples being taken. Twelve (12) of the sixteen (16) samples were taken from residential homes around the community while four (4) samples were taken in the downtown area, in the vicinity of the recent downtown fire.

- The twelve manganese tests that were taken from residential homes ranged from 7.2 ppb to 150 ppb.
- The four samples that were taken in the vicinity of the recent downtown fire ranged between 320 ppb to 1700 ppb. The three highest results were from samples collected from structures located next to the fire hydrant that was used during the August 11, 2019 downtown fire. The water sampled from these faucets was discolored due to the high water flow experienced from hydrant use during the fire.

The results of the twelve manganese tests that were taken from residential homes were under the EPA advisory level of 300 parts per billion for children under 12 months of age. The results of the four Downtown tests in the area of the fire were above the advisory levels. The Western Upper Peninsula Health Department has subsequently taken additional samples from three of the four downtown locations to better quantify the effects of the fire flow and WUPHD has also conducted additional hydrant flow tests.



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As a reminder the EPA does not regulate or require testing of manganese levels in drinking water. The EPA short-term health advisory levels are 300 parts per billion for children less than 12 months old and for adults is 1000 parts per billion.

The WUPHD continues to work with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) on the manganese water sampling and testing. The advisory for infants less than 12 months continues to remain in effect until additional samples are analyzed and results are available. A reminder to flush faucets whenever discolored water is observed and to report water quality issues to the City of Ironwood Water Department at (906) 932-5050. Bottled water remains available at the Ironwood Public Safety Building (123 West McLeod Ave.).