

The Aquifer

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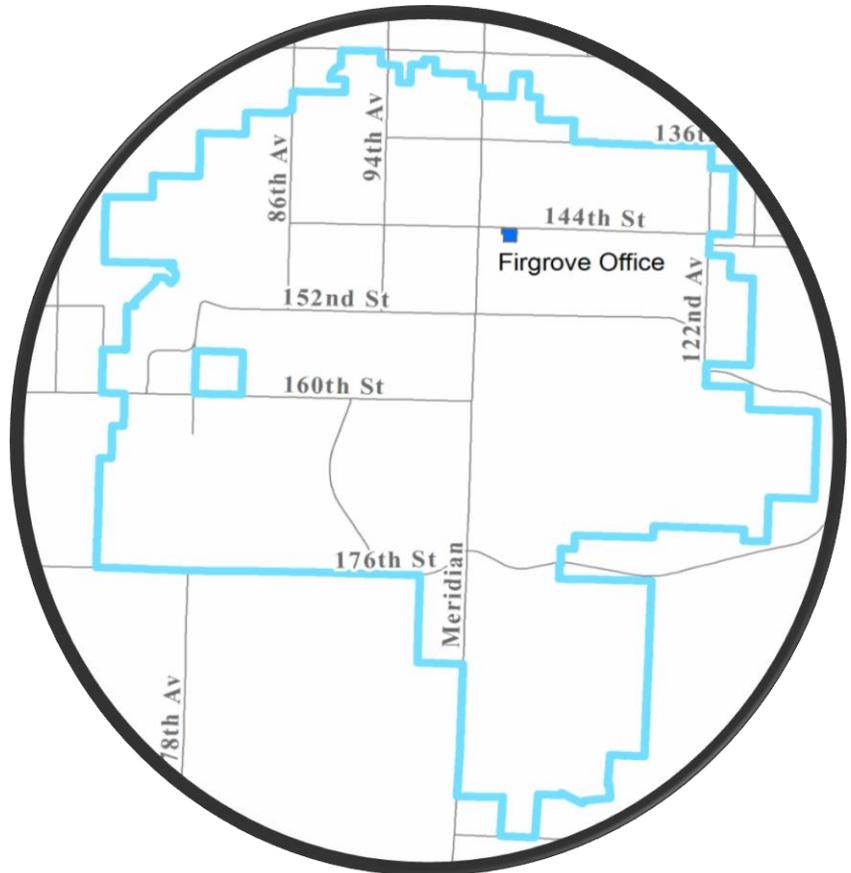
Regular Business Hours:
7:30 AM to 4:00 PM*
Monday – Friday
Closed on Saturday and Sunday.

*If you have an after-hours emergency, please call 253-948-6780 to reach our after-hours technician.

General Manager:
Larry Jones

Board of Directors:
Nancy Donovan
Austin Fisher
Mitchell Hinds
Donald Rose
Scott Williams

Please visit us at www.firgrove.org for more information.



Firgrove's office is located on the East side of Meridian Ave E, on 144th St E.

Mission Statement

It is the mission of Firgrove Mutual Water Company to provide high quality drinking water and excellent customer service. We will maintain the balance of quality service and cost effectiveness that best benefits our customers. We will be an integral member of our community through positive and supportive actions as its water purveyor. We will be environmentally responsible and responsive to the needs of economic development.

Emerging Contaminant Water Quality Report: PFAS Compounds

Firgrove strives to provide safe and reliable drinking water. A necessary component of that goal is vigilance within the drinking water industry to identify and mitigate the effects of contaminants not already regulated by federal and state law. One such contaminant, really a family of chemical compounds, is Per/Poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Perhaps you have heard about occurrences of PFAS in drinking water sources in our state. Maybe you've found yourself wondering what they are, where they come from, and whether they are present in your tap water.

If you've looked into the subject, you have probably read about detections on and around Department of Defense installations, including Joint Base Lewis McChord and Fairchild Air Force Base, where Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) has been used for fighting fires. PFAS is by no means limited to fire-fighting foams as a source. PFAS compounds have been in use since the mid-twentieth century. They are used in products with stain-resistant, water-resistant, and non-stick properties such as Teflon cookware, paint coatings, fast food packaging, outdoor clothing, carpets, leather goods, ski and snowboard waxes, hand lotions/creams, sunscreen, and much more.

While there are more than 3,000 compounds in this family of chemicals, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified two, Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctanesulfonate (PFOS) that pose potential health risks. PFAS are not currently regulated in drinking water, but EPA has set a health advisory level of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for the combination of PFOA and PFOS. As research into PFAS compounds continues to develop, officials continue to grapple with the issue of how to regulate and mitigate their impact to the environment.

Information on the health effects of PFAS compounds can be found on EPA's PFAS webpage <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>, or the Washington Department of Health (DOH) webpage doh.wa.gov/PFAS, which also provides information about efforts at the state level to address PFAS concerns.

Firgrove first tested for PFAS under EPA's third Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule* (UCMR3) in 2014, and had no detections. Since that time, Firgrove has conducted voluntary baseline testing of its sources, revealing low level detections of PFAS. Detections ranged from 0 to 14.2 ppt for the combination of PFOA and PFOS, well below the 70 ppt EPA health advisory.

Firgrove will continue to sample its sources with a view to proactively ensuring the health of the public it serves, as well as being prepared to respond when regulation is adopted by EPA and DOH.

The latest round of sampling, collected in early September 2019, tells the same story as our baseline testing. Firgrove targeted sources with detections in its baseline testing, doing more extensive sampling at these sites. The raw water detections for the two sampling events were similar, ranging from 0 to 14.2 ppt for the combination of PFOA and PFOS. And other compounds were detected at the same, or lower, concentrations as baseline testing. Of the fourteen compounds tested for, six were detected in baseline testing, and five were detected in September. Samples were taken further downstream, at the entry point to the distribution system (where the water leaves the treatment plant), and in all cases, the detections were the same as, if not marginally lower than, the raw water samples taken from the well head. (Continued on the next page)

If you have questions, or would like more information, please contact Steve Sacksteder at ssacksteder@firgrove.org, or by phone at 253-286-2847.

*To learn about USEPA's UCMR program, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr>.

New Year's Resolution

Have you started planning for your New Year's resolutions yet? An easy resolution to mark off your list is to make sure your account information is up to date with your utility providers. Feel free to give the office a call or send a quick email to make sure that things like email address, phone number and forwarding address are all up to date.

2019-2020 Holiday Closures:

Thanksgiving – November 28th & 29th, 2019

Christmas – December 25th, 2019

New Years – January 1st, 2020

Washington State Says Move Over, Again

Washington State is reminding its residents to slow down or switch lanes when passing civil servants such as police officers, paramedics, and firefighters by changing the Move Over Law to also include utility workers who may be on the side of the road. The updated law went into effect on June 7th, 2018, and is being enforced throughout Washington State. This law requires drivers who are approaching an emergency zone to either slow down and proceed with caution, or switch lanes when possible. An emergency zone is defined as 200 feet before and after a parked vehicle with flashing, blinking, or alternating emergency lights on.

For more information on this law please read [RCW 46.61.212](#).



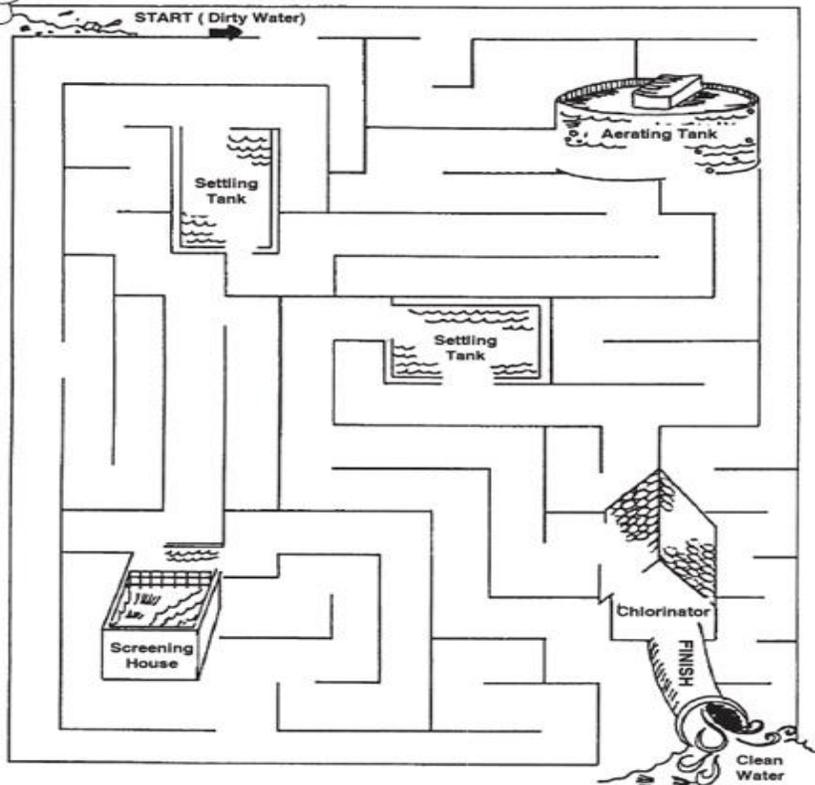
Fun Stuff for the Kids

How much do you know?

1. What is the total amount of water used to manufacture a new car including tires?
2. A. How long can a person live without food?
B. How long can a person live without water?
3. How much water does an acre of corn give off in evapotranspiration?
4. How much water is used to flush a toilet?
5. How much water is used to brush your teeth?
6. How much of the earth's water is suitable for drinking water?
7. How much does one gallon of water weigh?
8. How much of a tomato is water?
9. How much water does it take to make a ton of sugar?
10. How much of you is water?



Find your way through the maze to get your water from dirty to clean!



Answers: 1. 39,090 gallons per car. 2. A. About a month. B. Less than one week. 3. 3000-4000 gallons per day. 4. 1.5 - 5 gallons per flush. 5. 2-6 gallons when the water is left on. 6. Less than 1%. 7. 8.34 pounds. 8. 95%. 9. 1000 gallons. 10. 75%. Retrieved from waterandme.tamu.edu.