



## ePipeline

*OHA-Drinking Water Services Quarterly Newsletter*

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**April 20, 2021**

### **Manganese: friend and foe**

Think that manganese is just a harmless, pesky mineral that stains plumbing fixtures and laundry? Then think again, because while manganese is an essential nutrient for humans and animals, long-term exposure to high levels may be harmful. Of most concern are bottle-fed infants who may have negative neurological effects from drinking water containing more than 0.3 mg/L of manganese over a short period.

Manganese is a naturally occurring element commonly found in Oregon drinking water sources. OHA-DWS recommends that you test your finished drinking water for manganese and, if necessary, take steps to reduce the level to below 0.3 mg/L. For more information, check out the [OHA manganese in drinking water fact sheet](#) or contact Gregg Baird at 503-936-1657.

—Gregg Baird

# Alarm setpoints for treatment plants

Are your turbidity and chlorine alarms set appropriately so you can quickly respond to treatment interruptions? Whether you operate a complex water filtration facility or simply add chlorine to your well for disinfection, you should understand how to set critical values for these two metrics that will trigger notifications. Proper operation of your alarm system will help you achieve regulatory compliance and optimize your treatment.

Read [the complete article](#) to learn about the important public health protection provided by high-turbidity and low-chlorine alarms, optimized values for setpoints for alarms, and resources that can assist in establishing these controls.

—Evan Hofeld and James Nusrala

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# Outstanding Performers

Public water systems achieve Outstanding Performer status when they have no significant deficiencies identified and no unresolved violations, as evaluated during their routine water system surveys. Those that meet the Outstanding Performer criteria have their survey frequency reduced from every three years to every five years.

Go [here](#) to see a list of the water systems that have met the established criteria for outstanding performance during the period of July 25, 2019, through March 31, 2021. Drinking Water Services congratulates the operators of these systems for jobs well done!

Go [here](#) to find out how to qualify as an Outstanding Performer.

—Carolyn Clemons

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## Low-cost funding available

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) provides low-cost loans to community and nonprofit non-community public water systems for planning, design and construction of drinking water infrastructure improvements. Repayment terms are favorable and all projects receive part of the loan as principal forgiveness. Many different kinds of projects are eligible, including (among others) treatment, seismic and security improvements and service line replacements. See [the article](#) for more information.

—Adam DeSemp

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## Training opportunities

Find information about free trainings, webinars and CEUs on the Operator Certification Training Opportunities webpage at [www.healthoregon.org/dwtraining](http://www.healthoregon.org/dwtraining).

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**Contact Drinking Water Services**  
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