

TOWN OF BELLINGHAM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Water System ID# 2025000

DRINKING WATER QUALITY AND CONSUMER INFORMATION REPORT **CALENDAR YEAR 2014**

This year we again utilized the electronic distribution method. This allows us to compile a much more thorough report at a lower cost to our customers.

Introduction

This is the annual water quality report card that we prepare and make readily available to our customers and the public. It contains information about the Bellingham water supply system and important information about the quality of the drinking water we distribute to our customers. If you read it each year, THANK YOU.

I suggest that everyone read the entire report, but if pressed for time, I hope you will at least scan the 2014 Water Quality Summary, which begins on Page 5 and details the results of our most recent water quality analysis.

The July 2011 bacteria detection at one of our sources triggered a dramatic change in the way we treat our water. We must now disinfect all sources, which amplifies the discoloration of water caused by iron and manganese in our source water and pipes. By the autumn of 2015 we will have taken major strides regarding iron and manganese removal. During 2014, we have been constructing our new drinking water filtration \$15.4 million project. Once complete, it will filter the iron and manganese out before the water is pumped into our distribution system and to our customers. We received over \$14 million in State Revolving Loan funds to construct a new filtration plant on Wrentham Road, upgrade our existing filtration plant on Hartford Ave, and install many miles of water transmission mains to transport all water to the plants for treatment before it is pumped to our customers.

The Town of Bellingham Department of Public Works (DPW) is committed to providing our customers with high-quality drinking water that meets or surpasses state and federal standards for quality and safety. The Town has made significant investments in our pumping stations, filtration plant, and corrosion control facilities and annually perform thousands of dollars' worth of water quality tests to ensure that we provide sufficient quantities of safe drinking water.

Bellingham water is safe to drink. The tasks the Bellingham DPW must perform as a public water supplier under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act insure that to be the case. We are pleased to compile this annual report that summarizes the 2014 calendar year water quality testing and hope it reassures our customers of the safety of our tap water.

If you want to know more about the Bellingham water supply system, have any questions about the report, or would be interested in volunteering to help with our water education programs, please call Donald DiMartino, Director of the Bellingham Department of Public Works, at 508-966-5813. The DPW office is located at 26 Blackstone Street beside the Fire Station.

Our customers are also encouraged to participate in discussions about the water system and water quality issues by attending meetings of the Board of Selectmen, which are held the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:00 PM in the municipal center. Meeting agenda items, minutes, and special workshops regarding the water system are posted on the town website.

Where does Bellingham get its drinking water?

The Town of Bellingham's drinking water supply system includes 17 groundwater wells, nine pumping stations, three storage tanks, approximately 98 miles of water main, and 60 miles of water services. Thirteen wells, which are controlled by five pumping stations, are located in the southern part of Town; they draw water from the Blackstone River basin's underground aquifer (in 2015 water from these wells will be treated at the Wrentham Road Filtration Plant). Four wells, each operated by its own pumping station, are located in the northern part of

Town; they draw water from the Charles River basin's underground aquifer (in 2015 water from these wells will all be treated at the Hartford Ave Filtration Plant). The DPW has detailed maps showing these facilities. Anyone who would like to see a map or obtain a copy should contact the DPW.

What measures are taken to insure that our water sources are protected?

In 2002, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) issued a draft of our Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Report. The SWAP program was established under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and it requires that every state inventory land uses within the recharge areas of all public water supply sources, assess the susceptibility of drinking water sources to be contaminated from these uses, and publicize the results to provide support for improved protection.

Some of the land uses that exist within our recharge areas include: auto body & repair shops, salvage yards, photo processors, an old landfill, railroad tracks, hazardous material storage, industries and industrial parks, large quantity hazardous waste generators, and underground storage tanks. There are others but these are considered the highest threats.

A hard copy of our SWAP report is available upon request from the DPW (508-966-5813) or online at www.bellinghamma.org/Pages/BellinghamMA_DPW/swap.pdf. The report notes that all of our sources have a high susceptibility of future contamination. Unfortunately, MassDEP has not had the funding to update the report and some of the information is not current; however, it still contains a wealth of information about our source waters and potential risks to its quality.

It is impossible to eliminate all threats from past and present land use, but we have established protective land use restrictions that dramatically reduce our exposure to certain contaminants. We are well equipped to prevent future land uses that could further increase our susceptibility to aquifer contamination. Our key regulations include Board of Health Floor Drain Regulations, Water Resource Protection Bylaws, and the Water Resource District Zoning Map. The Bylaws and Maps are available online at the Town's Website www.bellinghamma.org.

Our Zone II drinking water well recharge areas extend into Medway, Franklin, Milford, and Wrentham and are all protected by bylaws except in Milford. Annually, we send a letter to the Town of Milford asking them to add our Zone II to their water protection district and some progress has been made, but to date our Zone II areas within the borders of the Town of Milford do not have bylaw or zoning protection.

Is our water pure?

No. Pure water would be only hydrogen and oxygen, the compound H₂O. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. Sources of drinking water (tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, reservoirs, streams, and wells. As water travels over land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive materials, and can be polluted by animal and human activity. More information on contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the US Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The US EPA and MassDEP are continuously studying drinking contaminants and adding them to the required list if there is a potential health risk and if technology is available to yield reliable analytical results. The Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) program is part of this effort.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants - such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants - such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.

Pesticides and herbicides - which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants - including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants - which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

If our water is not pure, what is in it?

The answer to this question is the main purpose of this report. On Pages 5 and 6, you will see a section titled **The 2014 Water Quality Summary**. It provides the complete list of the contaminants detected in the water we provided to our customers in 2014. The list contains only the contaminants that were detected at levels above the “detection limit,” which is the lowest concentration of a substance that today’s laboratory technology can detect. We collected 940 water samples in 2014. Those samples were analyzed by Massachusetts-certified labs for 84 various contaminants. The Water Quality Summary also reports detections of contaminants that we were not required to monitor for in 2014 but were detected during the most recent sampling round within the last five years. The date of sample collection is noted on the table. The frequency of monitoring is determined by MassDEP.

The contaminants on our MassDEP sample schedule include total coliform bacteria, free chlorine residual, inorganic contaminants (IOCs), total trihalomethanes (TTHM), haloacetic acids (HAA5), radionuclides, nitrate, nitrite, tetrachloroethylene (PCE), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), synthetic organic compounds (SOCs), iron, manganese, arsenic, sodium, and perchlorate.

Bellingham applied for a waiver to reduce the sampling requirements for perchlorate. MassDEP approved the waiver because the sources are not at risk of contamination. The last samples for perchlorate, reported below, were found to meet all applicable US EPA and MassDEP standards.

We did not need to perform costly Microscopic Particular Analysis (MPA) tests in 2014 because we completed a series of these tests on several of our wells in 2013. MPA testing was done to verify that our well water is not under the influence of surface water. All tests showed that the soils in our aquifers are acting as a natural filter and that the water we pump is groundwater and therefore is less likely to be affected by some particular contaminants that can occur in reservoirs, lakes, or rivers.

In 2014 we did sample for the first time for a list of contaminants being studied under the third cycle of EPA’s Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR3).

There are allowable or safe levels of contaminants in water. How are these levels determined?

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) prescribes regulations and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) administers regulations that limit the amounts of certain contaminants allowed in water provided to public water systems customers. The USEPA sets Maximum Contamination Levels, Maximum Contamination Level Goals, Action Levels, and defines allowable testing procedures for over 160 water contaminants. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and some infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on lowering the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Below are some important definitions and abbreviations that will help you understand the 2014 Water Quality Summary that appears on the following pages.

- **MCL – Maximum Contamination Level**: The highest level of a contaminant in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs (see below) as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **MCLG – Maximum Contamination Level Goal**: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Action Level**: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **90th Percentile**: Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level. This number is compared to the action level to determine lead and copper compliance.
- **ppm** is the abbreviation for parts per million. Parts per million is the same as milligrams per liter (mg/L) which is the scientific unit of measure for most contaminants.
- **ppb** is the abbreviation for parts per billion. A part per billion is the same as micrograms per liter (ug/L) which is the scientific unit of measure for some contaminants.
- **pCi/L** is the abbreviation for picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- **Highest RAA**: Highest running annual average of four consecutive quarters
- **Monthly %** is the percent of a month's system samples that indicate a presence of Total Coliform Bacteria.
- **MRDL -** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level. MRDL is the highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **MRDLG** is the abbreviation for Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal. MRDLG is the level of drinking water disinfectant below, which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefit of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **SMCL – Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level**: These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.
- **ORSG – Mass Office of Research and Standards Guideline**: This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which, adverse health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.
- **Unregulated Contaminants** - Unregulated contaminants are those contaminants for which the USEPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the USEPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. UCMR3 contaminants were sampled as part of the third cycle of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule.

The 2014 Water Quality Summary

The water quality information presented in the following tables is from 2014 or from the most recent round of testing done in accordance with the regulations. Only the detected contaminants are shown.

<i>Regulated Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)</i>	<i>Date(s) Collected</i>	<i>Highest Result or Highest RAA*</i>	<i>Range Detected</i>	<i>MCL or MRDL</i>	<i>MCLG or MRDLG</i>	<i>Violatio n (Y/N)</i>	<i>Possible Sources of Contamination</i>
Inorganic Contaminants							
Nitrate (ppm)	May & June 2014	3.4	0.1 – 3.4	10	10	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	May & Aug 2012	0.06	0.01 – 0.06	2	2	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (total) (ppb) (UCMR3)	April 2014	0.37	0 – 0.34	100	100	N	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Perchlorate (ppb)	August 2014	0.34	0 – 0.34	2	----	N	Rocket propellants, fireworks, munitions, flares, blasting agents
Radioactive Contaminants							
Radium 226 & 228 (pCi/L) (combined values)	May 2012	0.87	0.42-0.87	5	0	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	Quarterly	48.5	9.3 – 80.0	80	-----	N	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	Quarterly	33.8	3.8 – 54.0	60	-----	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm) (free)	40 per Month	0.58	0 – 2.02	4	4	N	Water additive used to control microbes

Bacteria	Total # Positive	Highest % Positive in a Month	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source of Contamination
Total Coliform*	22	21%	>5%	0	Y	Naturally present in the environment
<i>E. Coli</i>	0	0%	**	0	N	Human and animal fecal waste

* Coliform are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present. When coliform are found in more samples than allowed, this is a warning of potential problems.

** Compliance with the *E. coli* MCL is determined upon repeat testing.

Each month we collect at least 40 tap water samples for total coliform bacteria, along with a source and treated water sample at each active well. Bacterial testing requirements for public drinking water are very strict. All samples that show the presence of total coliform bacteria are automatically tested for *E. coli*, a fecal indicator. Confirmation sampling indicated that we did not detect these potentially harmful bacteria in any customer tap samples in 2014.

	Date Collected	90th Percentile	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	Number of Samples	Number of Samples Above AL	Exceeded AL (Y/N)	Possible Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	2012*	4	15	0	33	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper (ppm)	2012*	0.7	1.3	1.3	33	1	N	Corrosion of household plumbing

* Our next scheduled sampling for lead and copper will be in 2015.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Bellingham DPW is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Unregulated and Secondary Contaminants

Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	Date(s) Collected	Range of Results Detected	Average Detected	SMCL	ORSG or EPA Health Advisory	Possible Source
Sodium (ppm)	May & June 2012	49 – 96	57	----	20*	Natural sources; runoff from use as salt on roadways; by-product of treatment process
Nickel (ppb)	May & June 2012	0 – 2	1	----	100	Discharge from industrial processes
Sulfate (ppm)	May & June 2012	5 – 11	9	250	----	Natural sources
Manganese (ppb)	Quarterly 2014	7.2 – 110	47	50	300**	Erosion of natural deposits
Molybdenum (ppb)	April 2014	0 – 3.9	0.33	---	40	Naturally occurring in ores and living organisms; also used in chemical reagents.
Strontium (ppb)	April 2014	72 - 940	165	---	4,000	Naturally occurring element
Vanadium (ppb)	April 2014	0 – 2.20	0.22	---	---	Naturally occurring metal
Chromium-6 (ppb)	April 2014	0.10 – 0.39	0.24	---	---	Naturally occurring element used in plating, dyes, wood preservation
Chlorate (ppb)	April 2014	66 – 500	176	---	---	Agricultural defoliant; disinfection by-product
Chlorodifluoromethane (ppb)	April 2014	0 – 0.30	0.05	---	---	Used as refrigerant and in resins, polymers, & solvents

* Sodium-sensitive individuals, such as those experiencing hypertension, kidney failure, or congestive heart failure, should be aware of the levels of sodium in their drinking water where exposures are being carefully controlled.

** US EPA and MassDEP have established public health advisory levels for manganese to protect against concerns of neurological effects. The highest average for a single source (Well # 12 Cliff Road) was 71 ppb.

Why doesn't tap water taste better?

To meet the extensive safe drinking water quality standards, most public water suppliers must add treatment chemicals to their source water. We adjust the pH of the water for corrosion control and add potassium permanganate for iron and manganese removal and filtration enhancement. We also add chlorine for disinfection. Since our bacteria problem in 2011, MassDEP requires that we disinfect throughout our system. To achieve good disinfectant residuals at the outskirts of the system, the amount we add at our sources had to be increased. These chemicals work very well to make tap water safe, but they can affect the water's taste, color, and odor.

Bellingham's water is safe to drink and it's also economical. The average cost for a gallon of bottled water from a store is \$1.50 and the average cost for that same gallon of safe tap water is \$0.005. That means bottled water costs 375 times more than the safe water coming from your tap. If you want to remove the chlorine odor, you can fill a pitcher or jug with water and set it aside until the chlorine dissipates. You can then store it in your refrigerator to be used for drinking.

How can drinking water become contaminated in the distribution system after being pumped from a clean source?

1. Stagnation & Discoloration

Water can deteriorate in the pipes before it gets to the tap. To avoid this, we routinely perform hydrant flushing, which cleans out any water that may be stagnating in the piping system and also removes iron and manganese particles that coat the walls of water pipes. Iron and manganese can cause severe water discoloration. Dirty water complaints are the most common water complaint we receive; it's caused by the iron and manganese in our source water. Even with flushing, some areas of town experience chronic discoloration. Disinfection amplifies the discoloration as the chlorine reacts with iron and manganese in the water system. The water filtration project will significantly reduce or eliminate our iron and manganese problem.

2. Corrosion (Lead and Copper)

Tap water can have high levels of lead and copper due to corrosion of internal plumbing pipes and fixtures. The regulations, known as the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR), require that we test samples from residential customer's water taps. This testing is performed to confirm our ability to control internal pipe and plumbing corrosion. The LCR is different from other USEPA regulations in that it uses an Action Level for the contaminant as opposed to a Maximum Contamination Limit. The way the LCR works is the Town must take residential first draw tap water samples from a specific list of homes that are the most likely to yield the highest lead and copper levels. The results are tabulated and the 90th percentile is compared with the Action Level. If the result is below the Action Level, no additional action is needed. If the result is above the Action Level, additional action is required to reduce the customers' exposure to these contaminants.

In the early 1990s, when the Lead and Copper Rule took effect, we were exceeding the Action Level. We constructed corrosion control facilities to address the problem and now feed sodium hydroxide into the source water to lower the water's acidity (raises the pH). This thereby reduces our lead and copper levels.

Modifications to the plumbing code have reduced the amount of lead allowed in any plumbing fixture; however, these changes are relatively new. Older buildings have plumbing fixture that are very likely to continue to contain lead. Drinking water regulations and plumbing code modifications have made significant advances in the reduction of Americans' exposure to lead in their drinking water.

3. Cross Connections - Backflow

The drinking water supply system can be contaminated if water from a customer's building flows back into the water supply system. This can occur if the water main pressure drops or if the interior plumbing from a building is not properly installed. Backflow occurs through a plumbing cross connection between a drinking water pipe and a non-potable source. Pollution can even come from your own home. For instance, if you hook up a hose to a fertilizer sprayer and the water pressure drops suddenly (such as from a water main break or hydrant use in town) the fertilizer may be sucked back into the drinking water pipes through the hose. Using an attachment on your faucet called a backflow-prevention device can prevent this problem.

While the potential for backflow through a cross connection seems remote, the consequences can be severe. Cross connection backflow has the greatest potential for contaminating your water to the degree it can cause immediate illness or death. Imagine taking a drink of water that is laced with pesticides, lawn chemicals, or pool chemicals.

Some things you should do to prevent backflow at your home:

- The Bellingham DPW recommends the installation of backflow prevention devices, such as a low-cost hose bib vacuum breaker, for all inside and outside hose connections. You can purchase this at a hardware store or plumbing supply store. This is a great way for you to help protect the water in your home as well as the drinking water system in your town.
- Never submerge a hose in soapy water buckets, swimming pools, sinks, drains, or chemicals.
- For additional information on cross connections and our cross connection program, please contact Tom Ostrowski, Assistant DPW Director and Cross Connection Control Program Coordinator.

To avoid backflow at non-residential customers' properties, the DPW administers the Cross-Connection Control Program. Under this program, commercial properties are routinely surveyed to be sure that special protective check valves are installed and maintained. The Cross-Connection Control Program and the Plumbing Code help to ensure that the risk from this form of system contamination is minimized or eliminated.

We had three new violations in 2014 and continue to move to resolve a 2011 violation.

We exceeded the allowable 5% of our samples showing a presence of total coliform bacteria In July, August and September. In July we had 8 of 56 samples that had a presence of total coliform bacteria (14%). In August we had 12 of 80 samples that had a presence of total coliform bacteria (15%). In September we had 21 of 103 samples that had a presence of total coliform bacteria (21%). Exceeding five percent in a month is a violation of the state drinking water regulations (310 CMR 22.05 (8)(a): Monthly Maximum Contaminant Level Violation).

We publicized the violations as directed by MassDEP. MassDEP approved a written notice informing all customers of the higher than 5% results. The notices were published as general ads in the Milford Daily News and Woonsocket Call on August 25th. On October 6th we mailed notices to all Bellingham addresses. The notices were also posted to the Town website and noted on the Cable TV government scroll channel for several weeks.

We increased disinfectant feed rates and collected several additional samples that we analyzed. We flushed out the water mains in areas that were experiencing most of the samples with the presence of total coliform. We also performed a survey of our wells and pumping stations and submitted an Assessment Form (RTCR-1) to MassDEP. No cause of the unusually high number of total coliform detections was found. No further problems were encountered after September.

MassDEP issued a Notice of Noncompliance (NON-CE-14-5D093) that covered our total coliform violations in July, August, and September. Our system returned to compliance on October 10, 2014.

Please share this information and this report with all people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). For More Information or questions regarding this notice, please contact Don DiMartino, DPW Director 508-966-5813.

2011 Ground Water Rule Violation: On July 13, 2011, we received lab results indicating an E. coli bacteria detection at the Well #12 raw water sample collected on the July 11, 2011. That is a violation of the State Drinking Water Regulations GWR (310 CMR 22.26). This violation is being resolved by our construction of permanent disinfection at our new water filtration plants. On May 18, 2015 we got MassDEP approval to reactivate Well #12 now with permanent disinfection and filtration at the Hartford Ave Filtration Plant. We expect to receive a return- to-compliance notice from MassDEP sometime during the summer of 2015.

Is our drinking water system prepared for a crisis?

The Bellingham DPW is well prepared to handle any kind of emergency, from natural disasters and power outages to terrorist attacks and pandemics.

Our system has many sources (wells) and auxiliary power capabilities. These redundancies make it hard to knock us out completely. We have studied our system's vulnerable points and routinely discuss water system security at the Bellingham Emergency Planning Committee (BEPC) meetings. The BEPC holds an annual table top exercise to test and critique our preparedness.

We also subscribed to an emergency phone call system. The "CODE RED" system can call every Bellingham phone number and deliver a specialized warning to all of our customers within five minutes. If a health hazard ever occurs, the DPW will utilize this system and every other practicable means to notify and protect our customers. We have used the CODE RED system to warn of relatively minor water main breaks and shut downs, system changes that may trigger dirty water at customer taps, as well as for routine activities like calling in our long list of snow plow vendors. We hope we never have to use this system to issue a boil water order or a do not drink order, but it is very comforting to know that we have the tool to help us protect the health of our customers in case of a major crisis.

I urge all customers, residents, and people who work in Bellingham to enter their cell phone numbers, text numbers and emails into the CODE RED system. CODE RED automatically picks up listed phone numbers but will not call a cell phone unless the information is added manually.

How to subscribe to CODE RED: If you have internet access you can add your number on line at www.bellinghamma.org, click on the link to CODE RED and fill in your information. If you do not have internet access, call the Bellingham DPW (508-966-5813) Monday through Friday, (7am - 3pm) and we will enter your information into the database.