



# WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT SPRING RUNOFF AS OF MAY 22?

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## HUMAN HEALTH

Metals of concern for human health (Arsenic and Mercury) were found to be at levels considered safe by CDPHE water quality standards.



## AGRICULTURE

All metals were at levels considered safe for garden irrigation and agricultural use by CDPHE water quality standards.



## PETS

Water quality guidance for adults and children that recreate on the Animas River should also apply to pets. Metals in water do not readily pass across skin to internal organs.



## DRINKING WATER

City of Durango water is treated and meets drinking water quality standards. The City of Durango is required by the Safe Drinking Water Act to meet health-based water quality standards and provide results to the public. For City of Durango drinking water quality results, visit: [www.Durango.gov/utilities](http://www.Durango.gov/utilities).



## RECREATION

All metals were below EPA's recreational screening levels, which are protective of users who accidentally swallow river water (swimmers, rafters, tubers) or users who intentionally ingest river water (backpackers, overnight river trip users). It is always good practice to treat river water to remove bacteria before drinking.



## AQUATIC LIFE

Metals thought to be most harmful to aquatic life (Copper, Zinc, and Selenium) were at levels considered safe by CDPHE. However, on several occasions this spring, concentrations of Aluminum and Iron surpassed chronic water quality standards set by CDPHE to protect aquatic life from persistent, long-term exposure to metals.

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### Where does City of Durango get its drinking water?

The City of Durango primarily sources drinking water from the Florida River. During peak water use in the summer, the City of Durango also sources water from the Animas River, but not during spring runoff when the river carries a higher load of sediment and possible contaminants.

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### How will I know if water quality conditions change?

In a partnership with federal, tribal, and local government, La Plata County has installed an emergency notification system for the Animas River, which uses real time instruments in the river to detect changes in water quality that could pose a risk to human health.



For more information, visit:  
[www.MountainStudies.org/AnimasRiver](http://www.MountainStudies.org/AnimasRiver)  
[www.LaPlata.co.us/emergency](http://www.LaPlata.co.us/emergency)  
[www.SJBHD.org](http://www.SJBHD.org)  
[www.DurangoGov.org/utilities](http://www.DurangoGov.org/utilities)

