



Nick Fish, Commissioner
David G. Shaff, Administrator

1120 SW 5th Avenue, Room 600
Portland, Oregon 97204-1926
Information: 503-823-7404
www.portlandoregon.gov/water



An Equal Opportunity Employer

News Release

For Immediate Release
April 16, 2014

For more information, contact
Jaymee Cuti, Public Information,
at 503-823-8064.

Reservoir Off-Line After Man Cited for Urinating in Water Supply

PORTLAND, OR – Just after 1 a.m. Wednesday, April 16, 2014, Portland Water Bureau security staff observed on camera three men at Mt. Tabor Reservoir Number 5 in Southeast Portland. A 19-year old man was filmed urinating through the iron fence into the reservoir. Minutes later, the two other men, ages 18 and 19, attempted to scale the fence, with one successfully entering the reservoir.

These actions forced the Water Bureau to immediately take the 50-million gallon Mt. Tabor Reservoir 5 off-line and test for possible contamination.

A Portland Police Bureau officer and Portland Water Bureau ranger quickly responded. The three men were cited for trespassing, and one man for public urination. At this time, all three men have been excluded from Mt. Tabor Park. Police will review the surveillance video to determine whether the men will be charged with a crime.

David Shaff, Portland Water Bureau Administrator, reported that about 38-million gallons of drinking water will be discarded because of the incident. At this time, the Bull Run watershed that primarily supplies the city with its drinking water has an abundant supply.

Water quality test samples from the reservoir were taken early this morning, with test results due back by Thursday, April 17.

More

Shaff acknowledged the risk is slight, but says that the bureau will not serve purposely tainted drinking water to the public.

“Our customers have an expectation that their water is not deliberately contaminated. We have the ability to meet that expectation while minimizing public health concerns,” said Shaff. “We will continue to provide our customers with safe, clean and cold Bull Run water.”

Video surveillance and reports written by the Portland Police Bureau and the Portland Water Bureau will be submitted to the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office for possible criminal charges.

Additional information will be posted online at <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/water/> as it becomes available.

#