PUBLIC NOTICE (PN)

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EPA Drinking Water Unit
PN Ensures Consumers Know if there is a Problem with the Drinking Water

Notifies customers if:

- The water does not meet drinking water standards
- The water system failed to test its water
- Immediately alerts consumers if there is a serious problem with their drinking water that may pose a risk to their health
PUBLIC NOTICE

Tier 1  Acute Issues

Tier 2  TCR MCLs & GWR
        Failure to Correct
        Significant Deficiencies

Tier 3  Monitoring Violations
TIER 1 VIOLATIONS- Acute

- **RTCR**: Any combination of a routine positive and repeat positive where one of the positives is an EC+ OR if there is an EC+ routine and the system fails to collect repeat samples.

- **GWR**: Any EC+ source sample.

- **Nitrates**: MCL violations.

Tier 1 notices- typically boil orders or do not drink.

Other serious situations (but aren’t limited to):
  - Loss of pressure within the distribution
  - **SWTR**: Treated surface water production for longer than 4 hours at 5.0 NTU.
Give Notice:

- Public - within 24 hours
- EPA - within 24 hours

Method:

- Radio/TV (typically for communities)
- Hand or direct delivery
- Mail
- Posting in conspicuous places
TIER 1 VIOLATIONS-Acute

- Be sure to get the word out ASAP. Tier 1 notices are serious!
- Posting shall continue for as long as the problem persists.
- **Do not remove a notice until you get the ok from EPA.**
- Depending on the problem, you may need to provide alternate means of water. Consider planning ahead—what would you do?
TIER 2 VIOLATIONS

RTCR- Failure to conduct your:
   a) Level 1 Assessment
   b) Level 2 Assessment
   c) Seasonal Startup
      (if your system is not open year round)

GWR- Failure to correct significant deficiencies
TIER 2 VIOLATIONS

Give Notice:

• Public - within 30 days. Repeat every 3 months if problem persists.

• EPA - within 24 hours

Method:

• Hand or direct delivery

• Mail

• Posting in conspicuous places
TIER 3 VIOLATIONS:
All Monitoring Violations (i.e.-failure to monitor)

Give Notice:

- Public - Within one year
- EPA – Within one year

Method:

- Hand or direct delivery
- Mail
- Posting in conspicuous places
Public notices will need to be posted for at least one week.

Be sure to do what works best for your system in terms of posting. You want the most visible means necessary.
Content:

1. Type of Violation
2. What the consumer should do
3. What happened
4. What is being done
5. Give a contact consumers may call
A copy of the necessary public notice should always be included with any violation letter.

If you need a copy sooner or in an emergency situation, consult our Region 8 website below for templates: https://www.epa.gov/region8-waterops
Questions?

- We pretty much have forms for all issues.
- You should only need to fill in the blanks to describe your particular situation in detail.