### Figure 1: The Required Elements of a Public Notice

### **DRINKING WATER WARNING**

Springfield water has high levels of nitrate

# 4 - The population at risk

## DO NOT GIVE THE WATER TO INFANTS UNDER SIX MONTHS OLD OR USE IT TO MAKE INFANT FORMULA

#### AVISO NO USE EL AGUA PARA PREPARAR ALIMENTOS PARA BEBES

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Hable con alguien que lo entienda bien o llame al teléfono 555-1200 para hablar en español sobre este aviso.

for Spanish speakers

1 - A

Information

2 - When the violation or situation occurred

Water sample results received June 22, 1999 showed nitrate levels of 12 milligrams per liter (mg/l). This is above the nitrate standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), of 10 mg/l. Nitrate in drinking water is a serious health concern for infants less than six months old.

# description of the violation or

#### What should I do?

**DO NOT GIVE THE WATER TO INFANTS.** Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome. Blue baby syndrome is indicated by blueness of the skin. Symptoms in infants can develop rapidly, with health deteriorating over a period of days. If symptoms occur, seek medical attention immediately.

3 - Potential health effects

situation

5 - Whether alternate water \_\_\_\_ supplies should be used

Water, juice, and formula for children <u>under six months of age</u> should not be prepared with tap water. Bottled water or other water low in nitrates should be used for infants until further notice. Springfield Water Company and the Springfield Health Department are providing free bottled water to families with infants. Water is available between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Health Department office at the Town Hall. Water will be provided until the nitrate problem is resolved.

6 - Actions consumers should take

**Do not boil the water.** Boiling, freezing, filtering, or letting water stand does not reduce the nitrate level. Excessive boiling can make the nitrates more concentrated, because nitrates remain behind when the water evaporates.

Adults and children older than six months can drink the tap water (nitrate is a concern for infants because they can't process nitrates in the same way adults can). However, if you are pregnant or have specific health concerns, you may wish to consult your doctor.

7 - What is being done to correct the violation or situation

#### What happened? What is being done?

Nitrate in drinking water can come from natural, industrial, or agricultural sources (including septic systems and run-off). Levels of nitrate in drinking water can vary throughout the year. We'll let you know when the amount of nitrate is again below the limit.

8 - When the system expects to return to compliance

We are investigating water treatment and other options. These may include drilling a new well or mixing the water with low-nitrate water from another source. We anticipate resolving the problem by July 15.

For more information, please contact John Smith of the Springfield Water Company at (602) 555-1212. This notice was prepared and distributed by the Springfield Water Company, 500 Main Street, Springfield.

phone number, and business address for more information

9 - Name,

Please share this information with all the other 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). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

10 - Standard distribution language