

DRINKING WATER WARNING

_____ water system lost pressure in the distribution system

BOIL YOUR WATER FOR THREE MINUTES BEFORE USING

The _____ water system was shut down on _____ due to _____. This led to a loss of pressure in the distribution system, which may cause backpressure, backsiphonage, or a net movement of water from outside the pipe to the inside through cracks, breaks, or joints in the distribution system that are common in all water systems. Such a system failure carries with it a high potential that fecal contamination or other disease-causing organisms could enter the distribution system. These conditions may pose an imminent and substantial health endangerment to persons served by the system.

What should I do?

- **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST.** Bring all water to a rolling boil for at least (3) three minutes, and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation **until further notice**. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water. **ALL STORED WATER, DRINK OR ICE MADE RECENTLY FROM THIS SUPPLY SHALL BE DISCARDED.**
- *Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly and people with severely compromised immune systems.*
- The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice. People at increased risk should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

What happened? What is being done?

[Give a description of what is being done, where consumers may get an alternate source of water, etc.]

We will inform you when you no longer need to boil your water. For more information, please contact **[name of contact]** at **[phone number]** or **[mailing address]**.

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.

This notice is being sent to you by _____

Water System ID#: _____

Date distributed: _____

ATTENTION: PWS Operator/Responsible Party

You must provide public notice to persons served as soon as practical but within 24 hours after you learn of the violation or loss of pressure (141.202(b)). During this time, you must also contact your primacy agency. You should also coordinate with your local health department. This public notice shall be posted in conspicuous locations throughout the area served by the water system and hand delivered to persons served by the water system. Also, you should use radio or television to deliver the notice to consumers

You may need to use additional methods (e.g., newspaper, delivery of multiple copies to hospitals, clinics, or apartment buildings), since notice must be provided in a manner reasonably calculated to reach all persons served.

The notice on the reverse is appropriate for hand delivery or a newspaper notice. However, you may wish to modify it before using it for a radio or TV notice. If you do, you must still include all required elements and leave the health effects language in italics unchanged. This language is mandatory (141.205(d)). If you post or hand deliver, print your notice on letterhead, if you have it.

Population Served

Make sure it is clear who is served by your water system--you may need to list the areas you serve.

After Issuing the Notice

Send a copy of each type of notice and a certification that you have met all the public notice requirements to the your primacy agency within the time frame required, but no later than ten days from the time you issue the notice (141.31(d)).

It is recommended that you notify health professionals in the area of the violation. People may call their doctors with questions about how the violation may affect their health, and the doctors should have the information they need to respond appropriately. In addition, health professionals, including dentists, use tap water during their procedures and need to know of contamination so they can use bottled water.

After Issuing the Notice

Make sure to send your primacy agency a copy of each type of notice and a certification that you have met all the public notice requirements within ten days after issuing the notice (141.31(d)).

Please send a copy of your notice and dates posted to R8DWU@epa.gov or:

US EPA Region 8
Drinking Water Program
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129

Certification of Public Notification

I _____ certify that the attached public notification was issued from
(PWS Operator / Responsible Party)

_____ to _____.
(Date) (Date)

The attached notice was issued by _____.
(Method of delivery)

Signature _____ Date _____