

# DRINKING WATER WARNING

\_\_\_\_\_ has high turbidity levels  
(PWS name)

## BOIL YOUR WATER FOR THREE MINUTES BEFORE USING

We routinely monitor your water for turbidity (cloudiness). This tells us whether we are effectively filtering the water supply. A water sample taken on \_\_\_\_\_ (date) showed turbidity levels of \_\_\_\_\_ (number) turbidity units. This is above the standard of \_\_\_\_\_ (number) turbidity units. Because of these high levels of turbidity, there is an increased chance that the water may contain disease-causing organisms.

### 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.**
- *Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice from their health care providers about the drinking water.*
- 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. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

**What is being done?** (Describe corrective action and when the system expects to return to compliance) and where consumers can get an alternate source of water.)

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We will inform you when turbidity returns to appropriate levels and when you no longer need to boil your water.

For more information, please contact \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ or  
(Name of PWS contact) (Phone number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Mailing address of PWS contact)

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (e.g. 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 \_\_\_\_\_ (PWS) Water System ID#: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date distributed: \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTENTION: PWS Operator/Responsible Party**

If EPA Region 8 has designated this turbidity single exceedance as a Tier 1 violation [40 CFR 141.202(a)] you must provide public notice to persons served within 24 hours after it has been designated Tier 1. If you did not consult with EPA within 24 hours of learning of this exceedance, it automatically becomes Tier 1. **In such cases, you must issue a notice within the next 24 hours.** You may elevate the violation to Tier 1 yourself. You should also coordinate with your local health department.

You must use one or more of the following methods to deliver the notice to consumers [40 CFR 141.202(c)]:

- Radio
- Television
- Hand or direct delivery
- Posting in conspicuous locations

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. If you post or hand deliver, you may print the notice on your system’s letterhead.

This public notice template 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 modify the notice, you must leave the distribution and health effects language in italics unchanged. The language in italics is mandatory.

**Population Served**

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

**Corrective Action**

In your notice, describe the corrective actions you are taking. Listed below are some steps commonly taken by water systems with a single turbidity exceedance. Depending on the corrective action you are taking, you can use one or more of the following statements, if appropriate, or develop you own text:

- We are adding chemicals that reduce turbidity
- We are sampling both untreated and treated water for the presence of coliform bacteria
- We are monitoring chlorine levels and will adjust them as needed to compensate for filtration problems
- We are inspecting and repairing the filters.

**Source of the Problem**

If you know why the turbidity is high, explain it in your notice. For instance, unusual conditions, such as heavy rains and flooding, can overburden the water plant, and treated water may therefore not meet the standards. In addition, run-off from parts of the watershed could contain increased concentrations of sediment and animal waste.

**After Issuing the Notice**

Within the time frame required by EPA, but no later than ten days after issuing the notice, you must send to EPA a copy of the notice, along with certification that you have met all the public notice requirements.

E-mail: [R8DWU@epa.gov](mailto:R8DWU@epa.gov)  
 Mail: Jake Crosby  
 US EPA Region 8  
 Drinking Water Program (8WD-SDB)  
 1595 Wynkoop Street  
 Denver, CO 80202-1129

If you have questions about your turbidity exceedance call Jake Crosby at (303) 312-6389.

You should notify health professionals in the area of the violation. People may call their doctors with questions, and the doctors should have the information they need to respond appropriately. Additionally, health professionals, including dentists, use tap water during their procedures and need to know of contamination so they can use bottled water.

**Certification of Public Notification**

I \_\_\_\_\_ certify that the attached public notification was issued from  
 (PWS Operator/Responsible Party)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_. The attached notice was issued by \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (Date) (Date) (Method of delivery)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_