

Precautionary Boil Water Notice

What should you do?

Florida Department of Environmental Protection # 850-595-8300 Fax # 850-595-8392 ~ Health Department # 850-689-7859 Fax # 850-689-7872

If during a hurricane, tropical storm or unforeseen emergency, our water system loses power and water pressure, by law, we will issue a precautionary boil water notice to our customers.

When there is a loss in water pressure, either due to a broken water pipe or a scheduled outage for repairs, a Precautionary Boil Water Notice (PBWN) will be issued. If the number of affected members is small, then each member will be informed individually using a printed notice hung on the front door. Otherwise, the notice will be provided for broadcast from the local radio and/or television station.

Listen for your area.

Water pressure keeps pollutants from entering the underground pipes that bring drinking water to your house or business. When the pressure is lost, contaminants can seep into the pipes. This might allow pathogens (disease-causing germs) into the water that can cause illness if one drinks it or prepares food or beverages with it. Therefore, as a precaution, it is important to disinfect tap water to kill any bacteria or viruses that may have entered the water, or use an alternative source of water (bottled water). If test show actual contamination with bacteria, these same steps will make your water safe to drink.

Under a precautionary boil water notice, (PBWN) water used for consumption can be disinfected by any one of the following methods:

- ◆ Bring the water to a rolling boil and holding it there for one (1) minute.
- ◆ Using water purification tablets or iodine that many sports or camping stores sell.
- ◆ You can also buy commercial bottled water for consumption and food preparation.

Additional information can be found online at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/water/manual/boil.htm>

Consumption includes brushing teeth, washing fruits and vegetables, and homemade ice/beverages.



Tap water may be used for showering, baths, shaving, and washing, so long as care is taken not to swallow or allow water in eyes, nose or mouth. Children and disabled individuals should have their bath supervised to ensure water is not ingested. The time spent bathing should be minimized. Though the risk of illness is minimal, individuals who have recent surgical wounds, are immunosuppressed, or have a chronic illness may want to consider using bottled water for

cleansing until the notice is lifted.

Businesses and non-residential sites should take steps such as posting notices at, or disabling water fountains and ice machines during the PBWN. If you provide water to visitors or employees, use commercially produced bottled water for drinking or beverage preparation (coffee, etc.). Food service operations have additional requirements from their regulatory agency.

After the water system is repaired, and the pressure is restored in the pipes to your home or business, the precautionary boil water notice will remain in effect for one to several days while bacteria tests are conducted to assure the safety of the water. The notice will be lifted (rescinded) only after tests prove the water is safe to drink. When a small number of members are affected, the rescind notice will be delivered similar to the delivery of the boil water notice, otherwise the media will be provided information updates and you should listen for this important information on the radio and/ or from the television station. Flush your taps and dispose of ice made during the PBWS.

The employees of Milligan Water System, Inc., your water provider, take great care in assuring that your water is safe to drink. We appreciate your cooperation should a precautionary boil water notice be issued. Please call us if you have any questions or concerns. The County Health Dept. or D.E.P. (numbers are above) can also assist you with answers to your questions.