

Emergency Boil Water Orders (EBWOs) and Precautionary Drinking Water Advisories (PDWA) may be issued anytime when a problem with a waterworks has been identified.

What to do when an EBWO or a PDWA has been issued:

Emergency Boil Water Orders (EBWOS)

EBWOs are issued by the Medical Health Officers (MHO) or designates of the local Health Region (HR), in consultation with the Saskatchewan Environment (SE) Ecoregion (ER) when a threat to public health exists. Water from the water supply and distribution system should be boiled, at rolling boil for at least one minute before using to ensure bacteriological safety. Those individuals not wishing to boil water should make use of an alternate water source that is known to be safe.

The notice also applies to any water which may enter a person's mouth, such as water used for tooth brushing, soaking false teeth and water put into food or drink which will not be subsequently heated. Since harmful bacteria may survive freezing, ice cubes should also be made from previously boiled water.

In addition to the above, all dishes and utensils should be soaked in a bleach water solution (approximately 2 tablespoons of bleach per gallon or 10 ml of bleach per liter of water) for at least two minutes after being washed to kill any bacteria which may be present. **Do NOT mix bleach with soaps and detergents.**

Pursuant to Section 25 of *The Public Health Act, 1994*:

Take all reasonable steps to immediately notify all users of the public water supply of the (presence of unacceptable bacteria levels or lack of adequate disinfection) and the steps necessary to make the water supply safe, including:

- Boiling all water used for drinking purposes for at least one minute, at a rolling boil, prior to usage;
- Advising that such boiled water should be used as the water for other activities where it may be ingested, including:
 - Tooth brushing or soaking false teeth;
 - Dishwashing, unless sanitized in another fashion;
 - Food or drink which will not be subsequently heated;
 - Ice cubes
- Advising persons providing food or drink to the public to ensure all water that will be consumed by the public is boiled and to make in operable all public drinking fountains supplies with water from the public water supply.
- Making the attached "Emergency Boil Water Notice" available to users of the public water supply by;
 - Posting in conspicuous places in public buildings and areas in the municipality(ies).
 - (list any other appropriate methods for the circumstance – newspaper, distribute copies, etc.);
- advising persons not wishing to boil water that they should use an alternative water source known to be safe.

When issued an EBWO remains in effect until improvements are made to the water system which will ensure a safe supply at all times and pending satisfactory results of further water tests.



Precautionary Drinking Water Advisories (PDWAs)

PDWAs are issued by a Saskatchewan Environment (SE) Ecoregion (ER) in consultation with the Health Region (HR) when there is a possibility that problems may exist although an immediate public health threat has not been identified.

Pursuant to Clause 32(1)(b) of *The Environmental Management Protection Act 2002* and guidelines developed by SE, consumers must be notified to:

- Boil all water, used for drinking purposes, for at least one (1) minute, at a rolling boil, prior to use;
- Boiled water to be used for other activities where it may be ingested, including:
 - Brushing teeth or soaking false teeth;
 - Washing fruits and vegetables;
 - Food or drink which will not be subsequently heated; and
 - Ice cubes;
- Not drink from any public drinking fountains supplied with water from the public water supply;
- Under most circumstances, it is not necessary to boil water used for other household purposes. Adults, adolescents and older children may shower, bathe or wash using tap water but should avoid swallowing the water. Dishes and laundry may be washed in tap water, either by hand or by machine;
- Ensure that younger children and infants are sponge bathed;
- Use an alternative water source known to be safe, if consumers do not wish to boil the water; and
- Consult with your physician if you have cuts or rashes that are severe before using the water.

When issued a PDWA remains in effect until improvements are made to the water system which will ensure a safe supply at all times and pending satisfactory results of further water tests.



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