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Precautionary Boiling Water No Longer Required

DATE: _____

TO: Resident

FROM: Chris Dufort, Water Superintendent, City of Elmhurst

SUBJECT: PRECAUTIONARY BOIL ORDER LIFTED

A water system repair occurred and it was necessary to shut down the water main to make the repairs. Repairs are complete and the necessary flushing and purification verification steps have also been completed. Water samples have been confirmed to be free of coliform bacteria by a certified laboratory. You may return to normal use of your water service. Please call 630-530-3038 if you have any questions.

*For further information in regards boil orders, visit the City of Elmhurst Web site and search “Precautionary Boil Orders”.

A recent study by the U.S.E.P.A. found that construction activity to repair or replace water mains MAY loosen lead-containing particulates that may end up in residential water lines. To decrease the chances of lead in your water, please remove and clean all faucet aerators and flush your service line prior to use. Additional information on lead in potable water can be found on the reverse side of this notice.

The City of Elmhurst apologizes for any inconvenience.

The purpose of this notice regarding lead is for informational purposes only.

This water main repair may affect the lead content of your potable water supply. Lead, a metal found in natural deposits, is harmful to human health. The most common exposure to lead is swallowing or breathing in lead paint chips and dust. However, lead in drinking water can also be a source of lead exposure. In the past, lead was used in some water service lines and household plumbing materials. Lead in water usually occurs through corrosion of plumbing products containing lead; however, disruption (construction or maintenance) of lead service lines may also temporarily increase lead levels in the water supply. This disruption may sometimes be caused by water main maintenance/replacement such as this one.

As of June 19, 1986, new or replaced water service lines and new household plumbing materials could not contain more than 8% lead. Lead content was further reduced on January 4, 2014, when plumbing materials must now be certified as “lead-free” to be used (weighted average of wetted surface cannot be more than 0.25% lead). While it’s not known for certain whether or not this particular construction project will adversely affect the lead (if present) plumbing in and outside your home, below describes some preventative measures you can take to help reduce the amount of lead in drinking water.

What you can do to reduce lead exposure in drinking water during this construction project.

- Run your water to flush out lead. If the plumbing in your home is accessible, you may be able to inspect your own plumbing where it enters the home to determine whether or not you have a lead service line. The pipe is generally either lead or copper.
- If you do not have a lead service line, running the water for 1 – 2 minutes at the kitchen tap should clear the lead from your household plumbing to the kitchen tap. Once you have done this, fill a container with water and store it in the refrigerator for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula throughout the day.
- If you do have a lead service line, flushing times can vary based on the length of your lead service line and the plumbing configuration in your home. The length of lead service lines varies considerably. Flushing for at least 3 – 5 minutes is recommended.
 - Use cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.
 - Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water.
 - Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
 - Look for alternative sources or treatment of water. You may want to consider bottled water or a water filter that is certified to remove “total lead.”
 - Clean and remove any debris from faucet aerators on a regular basis.
 - Boiling water will not reduce lead.
 - Purchase lead-free faucets and plumbing components.
 - Remove and replace the entire lead service line.
- Test your water for lead. Call Public Works at 630-530-3038 to find out how to get your water tested for lead. While we do not do the testing, we can provide a list of laboratories certified to do the testing. Laboratories will send you bottles for sample collection. Please note that the City of Elmhurst is not affiliated with the laboratories and they will charge you a fee.