



North Kootenai Water District

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Important Information about Depressurization Event From the North Kootenai Water and Sewer District

On Thursday, February 4th, at approximately 3:00 AM a 12" water main ruptured on Lancaster Road at the top of the hill east of the S curves. Our certified operator received an alarm and promptly responded with corrective action. The northern portions of the Rimrock Service Area system experienced a depressurization event due to this pipe failure. This pipe was installed in the early 1980's. A failure in PVC pipe of this type is very unusual. Since the time of the failure, the District has collected confirmation samples from the system indicating the system was not impacted by microbial contamination.

Because your health is important to us, we want to explain in greater detail the steps we have and will continue to take to protect our water supply during a depressurization event. We would also like to inform you of the measures you may choose to take to protect your health should another pressure loss event occur.

Even well designed and operated water systems such as ours may experience pressure loss (depressurization events) from time to time. When a significant pressure loss occurs there is a potential for back flow or cross connection contamination to occur in the water system's distribution system, thus initiating an opportunity for contaminants to be drawn into the drinking water supply. We have done our best to limit this potential through the implementation of our cross connection control program, and by continually disinfecting our system with low levels of chlorine.

While we have established these preventative measures to significantly diminish the potential for contamination, it is not possible for any public drinking water system to completely rule out the potential for contamination during a depressurization event. *This potential for the introduction of microbial and chemical contaminants into the water system may pose a special health risk for people with weakened immune systems (immuno-compromised persons), children and the elderly. If such contamination were to occur, it may cause symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, cramps, headaches, or other symptoms.* As previously stated, confirmation samples collected throughout the distribution system following the recent depressurization event have been absent for coliform bacteria. These data serve to demonstrate our system was not contaminated during this depressurization event.

In the event of a future depressurization event, our certified water system operator, will again be notified through an automated alarm system. In order to prevent contamination, we will provide an increased level of disinfection immediately. This step has been completed, and we have tested our water for coliform bacteria. Results of the tests indicated negative for the presence of coliform bacteria. If test results indicate that coliform bacteria contamination has occurred, we will notify all water users immediately via a hand delivered notice.

If you are concerned about the potential for contamination due to a depressurization event, please consume bottled water if you notice a decrease in pressure at your tap. (Boiling your water may not be an effective method to ensure that you are protected from all potential contamination).

If you have questions or concerns regarding our drinking water, please contact Mike Galante, District Manager for North Kootenai Water & Sewer District at 772-3619 or Suzanne Scheidt, Regional Drinking Water Manager, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality at 208-769-1422.

Sincerely,

North Kootenai Water District

February 9, 2010