

**The
City of Ville Platte
Emergency Protocol
&
Boil Water Protocol**



2008

www.vpla.com

**Bill Jeanmard
Mayor**

**Shelley Fruge'
City Clerk**



What is a Boil Water Advisory?

A Boil Water Advisory is a public statement advising customers to boil tap water before consuming it. Advisories are issued when an event has occurred allowing the possibility for the water distribution system to become contaminated. **An advisory does not mean that the water is contaminated**, but rather that it could be contaminated; because the water quality is unknown, customers should assume the water is unsafe to drink and take the appropriate precautions.

What should I do during a Boil Water Advisory?

You should boil tap water vigorously for at least one full minute prior to using it for drinking or cooking (the minute starts when the water begins to bubble). This includes water used for brushing teeth, making ice, washing raw foods, preparation of drinks, and water for pets. Wait for the water to cool before using it, or store it in the refrigerator in a clean container. Boiling removes harmful bacteria in the water that may cause illness. You should throw away ice made during the time the advisory was issued, as freezing does not kill bacteria.

Do I still need to boil my water if I have a filter system on my faucet or refrigerator?

Most point-of-use (POU) filters are designed to improve the aesthetics of water (improve taste and odor), not remove harmful bacteria.. If in doubt, you should boil your water or use bottled water even if you have a filtering system.

Is the water safe for washing dishes, laundry, and bathing?

The water is safe for washing dishes, but you should use hot, soapy water (you may add one tablespoon of bleach per gallon as a precaution) and rinse dishes in boiled water. There are no restrictions on doing laundry. The water is also safe for bathing during an advisory; if the water is contaminated by a chemical that will cause harm on contact, The City of Ville Platte Water System will issue a Do Not Use Notice, meaning the water should not be used for bathing.

How long must a Boil Water Advisory or Notice be in effect?

An advisory or notice will remain in effect until test samples show the water is safe to drink. Testing for bacteria requires 24 hours to complete, depending on the type of test used. The samples are incubated to actually grow bacteria, if any are present. As a result, advisories and notices will be in effect for at least 24 hours.

Under what circumstances will The City of Ville Platte Water System issue a Boil Water Advisory?

An advisory must be issued in the following instances:

- * If untreated water reaches the distribution system
- * Loss of pressure in the entire distribution system or a significant portion of the system for a period of time.
- * A water main break where dirt and debris have entered the distribution piping

How will I know when the advisory or notice has been lifted?

The City of Ville Platte Water System will issue a repeal of the advisory when the water is safe to drink; stay tuned to radio and television stations for updates. The City of Ville Platte Water System will also post information on this web site. You can also call 363-4505 for information during normal working hours. www.vpla.com

Note:

The LAC – Sanitary Code 51:XII.335.D states:

All public water supplies shall be operated and maintained to provide a minimum positive pressure of 15psi gauge at all service connections at all times.

The City of Ville Platte Water System continues to uphold their commitment to providing the citizens of the City with a consistent supply of the highest quality water possible and providing those customers with information to insure their continued health and safety while consuming this water.

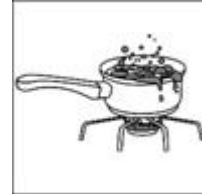
Due to the age and makeup of the distribution infrastructure, circumstances do exist at times that adversely affect the quality of this water and require remedial action to be taken. These circumstances include a number of situations with varying degrees of risk from a simple water main leak, to testing results suggesting a possible risk to our customers health; all of which require specific action by members of the City to insure continued good health for the people of this City.



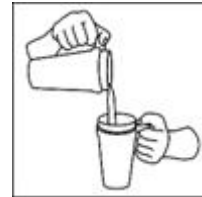
ONLY USE WATER THAT HAS BEEN PROPERLY DISINFECTED FOR DRINKING, COOKING, MAKING ANY PREPARED DRINK, OR FOR BRUSHING TEETH.

Summary and illustration of key points

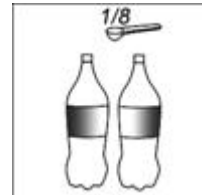
Boiling is the surest method to make water safe to drink and kill disease-causing microorganisms. A **rolling boil** for 1 minute



To improve the flat taste of boiled water, aerate it by pouring it back and forth from one container to another and allow it to stand for a few hours, or add a pinch of salt for each quart or liter of water boiled.



You can use a **non-scented**, household chlorine bleach that contains a chlorine compound to disinfect water. More details below.



Do not use non-chlorine bleach to disinfect water. Typically, household chlorine bleaches will be 5.25% available chlorine. Follow the procedure written on the label. When the necessary procedure is not given, find the percentage of available chlorine on the label and use the information in the following table as a guide. (Remember, 1/8 teaspoon and 8 drops are about the same quantity.)

Available Chlorine	Drops per Quart/Gallon of Clear Water	Drops per Liter of Clear Water
1%	10 per Quart - 40 per Gallon	10 per Liter
4-6%	2 per Quart - 8 per Gallon (1/8 teaspoon)	2 per Liter
7-10%	1 per Quart - 4 per Gallon	1 per Liter

(If the strength of the bleach is unknown, add ten drops per quart or liter of filtered and settled water. Double the amount of chlorine for cloudy, murky or colored water or water that is extremely cold.)

Mix the treated water thoroughly and allow it to stand, preferably covered, for 30 minutes. The water should have a slight chlorine odor. If not, repeat the dosage and allow the water to stand for an additional 15 minutes. If the treated water has too strong a chlorine taste, allow the water to stand exposed to the air for a few hours or pour it from one clean container to another several times.

ADVISORY SAMPLE FORM

VOLUNTARY BOIL ADVISORY

The City of Ville Platte Water System

PWSID# LA1039010

00/00/2008

For Immediate Release to Water System Customers

The City of Ville Platte Water System has experienced a line break in the water supply system which caused a loss in pressure in the distribution system.

Because of these problems, the water produced by our water supply system is of questionable microbiological quality.

Therefore, **as a precaution**, we are issuing a **BOIL ADVISORY** effective immediately. **This BOIL ADVISORY** is to remain in effect until rescinded by The City of Ville Platte Water System.

It is recommended that all consumers disinfect their water before consuming it (including fountain drinks), making ice, brushing teeth, or using it for food preparation or rinsing of foods by the following means:

Boil water for **(1) one full minute** in a clean container. The one minute starts after the water has been brought to a rolling boil. (The flat taste can be eliminated by shaking water in a clean bottle, pouring it from one clean container to another, or by adding a small pinch of salt to each quart of water that is boiled.)

Again, please be sure to disinfect your own water prior to consumption until you have been advised otherwise.

The City of Ville Platte Water System will rescind this Boil Advisory upon notification from the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals – Office of Public Health that additional water samples collected from our water supply system have shown our water to be safe.

Issue by: Mayor Bill Jeanmard

BOIL ADVISORY LIFTED

City of Ville Platte Water System

PWS ID# LA 1039010

00/00/2008

For Immediate Release to Water System Customers

The City of Ville Platte Water System officially rescinds and/or cancels the Boil Advisory. We have received notification from the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals - Office of Public Health that the additional water quality tests show the water to be safe. The advisory was voluntary and was only a precaution. We would like to thank the public for their cooperation and understanding. Again, there is no further need to boil water from the City of Ville Platte Water System.

For more information, please call the City of Ville Platte Water System at (337) 363-4505 or visit the city's website at www.VPLA.com.