



MEDIA RELEASE – For Immediate Release

April 3, 2008 2:30 p.m. (MDST)

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COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT APPROVES THE CITY OF ALAMOSA TO MOVE TO MODIFIED YELLOW ALERT – BOIL ORDER

Alamosa, CO – The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has just given Alamosa city officials the approval to move to a modified yellow alert – water boil for the city’s municipal water system. The order will be in effect until further notice.

Water distribution will continue at the old K-Mart and Boyd Park sites on Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Starting Saturday water distribution times will change to 12 p.m. until 6 p.m.

The following information was provided by CDPHE at 2:30 p.m. [(MSDT) April 3, 2008]:

Employees, students and children must be free of diarrhea for 24 hours prior to returning to work in a retail food establishment, to school or to day care.

If you are not on the City of Alamosa public water supply, you do not need to comply with this guidance.

GENERAL PUBLIC:

- All water must be brought to a rolling boil for one minute during a boil order. This includes water for:
 - drinking;
 - food preparation/inclusion in recipes;
 - vegetable and fruit washing;
 - manual utensil and equipment washing, rinsing and sanitizing;
 - making ice;
 - and brushing teeth.

- Bottled water must be used to mix infant formula.

- Home-style/domestic dishmachines are adequate for sanitizing if the heat drying cycle is applied.

- Bathing and showering in the water should present no problems for healthy individuals. Exercise caution not to ingest water during such activities.

- Before food preparation, handwashing can be performed using city tap water and soap followed by use of hand sanitizer. It is recommended that direct hand contact with food be avoided during preparation.

RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS:

- All water used for retail food establishment activities must be brought to a rolling boil for one minute during this boil order. Do not boil excessively. This includes water for:
 - drinking;
 - food preparation/inclusion in recipes;
 - vegetable and fruit washing;
 - manual utensil and equipment washing, rinsing and sanitizing;
 - wiping cloth solutions
 - making ice
- Handwashing with city tap water and soap is required, followed by use of hand sanitizer (do not touch food with bare hands, use disposable gloves)
- Heat sanitizing warewashing machines will adequately sanitize utensils with the required final rinse temperature of 180°F.
- The use of a chemical sanitizing warewashing machine during a boil order is **not** approved.
- It is recommended that retail food establishments use single-service plates and utensils.
- Do not use pop machines, coffee makers, dispenser “guns” in bar facilities, hot chocolate/cappuccino machines, produce misters and ice machines directly plumbed to the water source.
- Ice machines should be disconnected in order to allow the ice to drain off.

WHOLESALE FOOD MANUFACTURERS: Should follow the guidance listed above for Retail Food Establishments.

MEAT PROCESSING PLANTS: Contact the USDA and/or the Colorado Department of Agriculture for guidance.

CHILD CARE CENTERS AND SCHOOLS:

- Drinking fountains shall not be used.
- Bottled water must be used to mix infant formula.
- Boiled or bottled water must be used to mix sanitizing solutions for diapering areas and surfaces such as toys and tabletops.
- Due to children’s frequent hand-to-mouth contact, water for handwashing in child care centers shall be boiled or bottled for all children. Adult employees can use city tap water and soap followed by use of hand sanitizer.
- Discontinue use of water play tables.

- Use the guidance listed above under Retail Food Establishments for all food preparation and handling.

SWIMMING POOLS HOT TUBS AND SPAS: Pools that are operated properly, including monitoring the pool for adequate disinfection levels, may be allowed to continue operating during a boil order. CDPHE Water Quality Control Division should be contacted for guidance.

For more information, please call the CO-Help line at 1-877-462-2911, which is staffed from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p. m. or visit www.CityofAlamosa.org or watch Cable Channel 10. Information is also available in Spanish at www.cdphe.state.co.us/epr/AlamosaEspanol.html.

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