



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 24, 2008, 3:00 PM

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City of Alamosa Plans Staged Water Treatment

Alamosa, CO – Customers who pay their water bill to the City of Alamosa, which includes those in the Bonneyville subdivision, are currently under a bottled water advisory. East Alamosa Water and Sanitation District customers are not affected by the bottled water advisory and will not be affected by the water treatment planned for Tuesday.

The City of Alamosa will begin treating the City's water distribution system for bacterial contamination on Tuesday, March 25, beginning at 9:00AM. The process will continue in stages until the water treatment is complete for the entire community. It is estimated that this process could take from 10 to 14 days.

The water distribution system will be disinfected with chlorine in a three-stage process, with color-coded Safety Notices delivered to individual residences at the beginning of each stage.

STAGE 1 (Red Safety Notice) begins with the introduction of a high concentration of chlorine (approximately 25 ppm) into the water system. This will occur neighborhood by neighborhood. City officials will notify each neighborhood before the process begins. **DURING STAGE 1, DO NOT USE CITY WATER FOR ANYTHING OTHER THAN FLUSHING TOILETS.** More detailed information will be provided as the process starts in your neighborhood.

In Stage 1, citizens may experience skin, eye, or other irritation from exposure to the highly concentrated chlorinated water. If signs of irritation occur, immediately rinse irritated areas with bottled water. If the irritation continues or spreads, contact your health care provider for follow-up care.

At the end of Stage 1, residents will be notified as the concentration of chlorine decreases to Stage 2 levels and additional uses of the water become possible.

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STAGE 2 (Yellow Safety Notice) will occur as the concentration of chlorine decreases to approximately 10 ppm. This is 2 to 3 times greater than the maximum level acceptable for drinking water, and slightly above the level found in a properly maintained swimming pool. At this time, residents should run their bathtub faucet – 5 minutes on hot, then 5 minutes on cold, or until they smell chlorine. Some people may experience skin, eye or nose irritation from chlorine at this level, but may bathe with caution. Tap water should not be consumed or used to brush teeth. This stage is expected to last up to 10 days, but may last longer depending on results of the flush.

STAGE 3 (Green Safety Notice) will occur when chlorine concentration decreases to approximately 1-2mg per liter, which is a safe drinking level. At this time, residents should run all taps in their homes for at least two minutes to charge their system with drinkable, chlorinated water. Normal drinking, bathing, and other water uses can be resumed at this stage.

This process may change depending on further developments. City officials will notify the public as soon as possible as changes occur.

For more information, please call the CO-Help line at 1-877-462-2911, visit www.CityofAlamosa.org or watch Cable Channel 10.

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