

BOIL WATER NOTICES

From time to time you will hear that the City of Petersburg, like other Texas cities has issued a boil water notice. This notice is telling you that it is not safe to drink the city's water without boiling the water to kill any harmful bacteria.

State rules and regulations require the City of Petersburg to issue a boil water notice whenever the line pressure drops below 20 psi (pounds per square inch) in any of our distribution lines.

The pressure in our water lines may drop below 20 psi whenever we have to cut into a main line to repair a leak in the line, replace a section of line, or because of some emergency loss of pressure.

Once the line pressure has dropped below 20 psi the City issues a boil water notice and then proceeds to flush the line until the chlorine residual reaches an acceptable level and/or until a minimum of two times the volume of water the line will hold has been flushed through the line.

After flushing the line and returning the level to normal City staff take water samples ahead of the repair and behind the repair and then transport these samples to a laboratory in Lubbock for testing and analysis. The test is checking for fecal contamination.

If the samples are negative for this type of bacteria the City can then lift the boil water notice. Many times it takes approximately 48 hours to take the samples, get them to the lab for expedited testing, and to receive the results. This time is in addition to the time it takes to repair the line.

The boil water notice is not only required by the State of Texas but also is for you and your family's protection. City staff strives to make this time as short as possible and to confine the area to a small area of the town if possible. On many major breaks there are not sufficient isolation valves in the proper location and therefore large areas of the town must be shut off in order to make the repairs. In some cases the entire town's water system must be shut down to make the repairs. When this happens large areas can lose water pressure and be subject to possible contamination of the lines.

When we have to issue a boil water notice we notify TCEQ and all of the