



North Carolina Department of Human Resources
Division of Health Services
P.O. Box 2091 • Raleigh, North Carolina 27602-2091

James G. Martin, Governor
David T. Flaherty, Secretary

Ronald H. Levine, M.D., M.P.H.
State Health Director

February 29, 1988

04-67-043 2700 LEADNTC
USSMC LEJEUNE HOLCOMB BLVD
US MARINE CORPS
MARINE CORPS BASE
CAMP LEJEUNE NC 28540

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RE: Lead Notification-Community
Public Water Systems

Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (Public Law 93-523) enacted in June of 1986 require that the owner or operator of each community water system shall issue notice to persons served by the system that may be affected by lead contamination of their drinking water. Notice shall be given even if there is no violation of the national primary drinking water regulation for lead. In other words, unless the owner or operator can state conclusively that there is no pipe or pipe fittings in the entire water system which has greater than 8% lead content and no plumbing in any home or other service connection which has solder or flux greater than 0.2% lead content, public notification to all the customers must be given. Even if the water is demonstrated to be lead free a public notification to the water customers is required.

Enclosed is a model public notification designed by the North Carolina Section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and this office. This or a similar notice with the exact language regarding the health effects of lead that is in this notice must be delivered or mailed to each water customer in a community water system which serves water not known to exceed the maximum contaminant level for lead by June 19, 1988 or by publishing in three newspaper notices (one for each of three consecutive months and the first no later than June 19, 1988). Any steps your water system is taking to mitigate lead content in your drinking water must be stated on the notification to your customers e.g., corrosion control program, etc. System specific information including a telephone number, address of the contact person (owner, operator, etc.) and the name of the contact person must be added to the public notification or included in the handout.

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or mailing. If newspaper advertisement is utilized the system specific information must be included also.

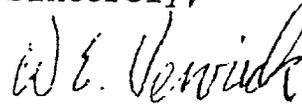
Upon completion of the notification, you must state in writing to this office that the lead notification was done in accordance with the above stated instructions. If the notification was done by newspaper, a copy of the actual legal notice or an affidavit from the newspaper must be submitted. For your convenience a verification form is enclosed which you must fill out and return to this office so we can credit you with having done the notice.

You may make as many copies of the model notice as necessary to notify each water customer. The national headquarters of AWWA has mailed to AWWA members a "bill stuffer" which may be used as a substitute for the enclosed mailer. However, this notice is copywrited and you will have to order copies from their Denver, Colorado office.

If you have any questions regarding this letter please call our regional Public Water Supply Branch offices. The following telephone numbers are related to the prefix number in your public water system identification number:

<u>Prefix Number</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>	<u>Office Location</u>
* 01	(704) 669-3361	Black Mountain
02	(919) 761-2390	Winston-Salem
03	(919) 486-1191	Fayetteville
04	(919) 756-1343	Greenville

Sincerely,



W. E. Venrick, Head
Public Water Supply Branch
Environmental Health Section

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Enclosures

*Note: The water systems in Cabarrus, Rowan, Stanly and Union counties are the exceptions. These counties need to call the regional Public Water Supply Branch in Winston-Salem at (919) 761-2390.

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L4-67-045 2/75 LEADNTC
USMC LEJEUNE HQLCOMP FLV
US MARINE CORPS
MARINE CORPS BASE
CAMP LEJEUNE NO 25542

Lead Public Notification Verification

Name of Public Water System: _____

Identification Number: _____

Date of Notification Distribution: _____

Name of Person Submitting this Form: _____

Title (owner, manager, etc.): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Mail to: W. E. Venrick, Head
Public Water Supply Branch
Environmental Health Section
Post Office Box 2091
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602-2091

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NOTICE TO WATER SYSTEM CUSTOMERS

The United States Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1986. One requirement of this Act is that all people using public water systems should be notified of the potential for exposure to lead through the water distribution system and the plumbing in individual homes. All public water systems are required to make this notification even if there is no evidence of lead contamination and the drinking water complies with the Standards established by EPA.

The State of North Carolina and the North Carolina Section of the American Water Works Association have developed this notice which may be used by public water suppliers in order to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act. All public water suppliers who do not exceed the EPA established Maximum Contaminant Levels for lead may use this notice to inform their customers of the potential for lead contamination.

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WHERE DOES LEAD COME FROM?

Lead accumulates in the body from three potential sources. The major source is food, followed by air and drinking water.

Lead has been a common component of the materials used in the construction of water distribution systems and household plumbing throughout the centuries. While water supply systems do not still use lead joints and services, some older parts of existing systems may contain lead.

Lead is also commonly found in the soldered joints and the plumbing fixtures of older as well as modern homes and buildings. All water, even that which has been treated to reduce corrosiveness, can cause traces of lead to dissolve in the drinking water.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF LEAD?

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets drinking water standards and has determined that lead is a health concern at certain levels of exposure. There is currently a standard of 0.050 parts per million (ppm). Based on new health information, EPA is likely to lower this standard significantly.

Part of the purpose of this notice is to inform you of the potential adverse health effects of lead. This is being done even though your water may not be in violation of the current standard.

EPA and others are concerned about lead in drinking water. Too much lead in the human body can cause serious damage to the brain, kidneys, nervous system, and red blood cells. The greatest risk, even with short-term exposure, is to young children and pregnant women.

Lead levels in your drinking water are likely to be highest:

- if your home or water system has lead pipes, or
- If your home has copper pipes with lead solder, and
- if the home is less than five years old, or
- if you have soft ~~or~~ acidic water, or
- if water sits in the pipes for several hours.

WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT LEAD?

The American Water Works Association recommends that the cold water tap run for a sufficient amount of time to clear standing water from the line prior to using it for consumption (approximately two to three minutes). This should be done in the morning or after the system has not been in use for several hours.

Since hot water dissolves lead more quickly than cold water, use water from the cold water tap for drinking and cooking purposes, and especially for making baby formula.

When making any repairs or additions to the drinking water lines always insist that "lead-free" solder be used.

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WHAT IS THE WATER SYSTEM DOING ABOUT LEAD?

All public water supplies in the United States are monitored for lead and other potential contaminants to insure that Maximum Contaminant Levels established by EPA are not exceeded. In addition, most water suppliers treat the water prior to distribution to reduce corrosiveness which might cause lead to dissolve. The North Carolina building code also now requires that "lead-free" solder be used in drinking water plumbing.

The Department of Human Resources and the public water systems in North Carolina are committed to providing the safest available water to the people of this State.

If you desire further information on your water supply please contact your water system office or the U.S.E.P.A. at 1-800-426-4791 or order *Lead and Your Drinking Water* from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C. 20460

Published by the North Carolina American Water Works Association in cooperation with the North Carolina Department of Human Resources.

James G. Martin, Governor
David T. Flaherty, Secretary

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