



Evergreen
Water & Sewer
DISTRICT 1.®

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MEDIA NOTICE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: CINDY MURRAY, GENERAL MANAGER, FLATHEAD COUNTY WATER DISTRICT #1 - EVERGREEN

August 29, 2022

2:33 p.m.

On Sunday at 11:52 p.m., the Flathead County Water District #1 – Evergreen (“Evergreen Water & Sewer District”) began receiving customer calls about water supply interruptions. Shortly thereafter, we discovered a piping failure at our two water tanks holding a total of 2.6 million gallons of water. The flooding that resulted from the pipe leak caused electrical shorts to the controls that monitor the levels of the water tanks. The loss of the control equipment and a related failure in our emergency notification system resulted in District’s two water tanks being fully drained of water. Water did not escape from the tanks, the tanks just failed to refill once they were depleted by normal system demand as a result of the control failures. Once the system was depleted, the District’s customers experienced water shortages and pressure-related issues.

We have replaced the controls and are working on the other systems that failed. In the meantime, using alternative monitoring we can operate the system safely and reliably. The tanks are almost 50% full and will be back to normal operation in less than 24 hours. Because the system was depleted, it is possible that certain parts of our drinking water system may be contaminated with bacteria from backflow. Backflow could have occurred from certain appliances such as hot water tanks or water softeners. We are working with DEQ and are issuing a BOIL ORDER ADVISORY. It is posted on our website at www.evergreenwaterdistrict.com and is attached to this release.

We will temporarily chlorinate our water system and will fully flush it, which should be accomplished by late Wed. On Thursday, we will perform bacteria testing and will have the results sometime on Friday. The tests normally take 24 hours to complete. If customers are experiencing symptoms described in the BOIL ORDER ADVISORY, they should consult their health care professionals.

If customers can curtail their watering for the next 12 hours, that would be helpful. At this point, we are not issuing any watering restrictions.

Fast Facts about the District:

- The District's water system has been serving the Evergreen community since 1965. Within our 8 sq. mile service area, we provide approximately 3,283 customers or nearly 10,000 people with fresh water.
- During the winter, water demand is about 138,000 gallons a day, but in the summer our customers use up to 6 million gallons of water per day.
- To meet the water demand, the District has 11 wells and two storage tanks that hold a combined 2.6 million gallons of water. Normally, our water is not chlorinated, but will be on a temporary basis to ensure the safety of the supply.
- The two tanks were recently refurbished in a project funded by the State and County as well as District customers.
- The District is the largest water and sewer district in the State. If Evergreen were an incorporated area, it would be the 10th largest city in Montana. The District is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors and is an independent governmental entity subject to Montana and federal laws and regulations.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Boil Water Advisory

for

Flathead County Water District #1 – Evergreen

“Evergreen Water & Sewer”

MT0001744

Water System Water may be Contaminated

Our water system is experiencing an emergency situation which could result in contamination of the water supply. This is a precautionary **BOIL WATER ADVISORY** and as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

This **Boil Water Advisory** is precautionary. The Flathead County Water & Sewer public water supply experienced a loss of pressure in our distribution system. This emergency situation could render the water system susceptible to contamination. Water system personnel are monitoring the situation. Your cooperation is needed. Please adhere to the water restriction guidelines and boil the water before consuming.

What should I do?

- **Boil your water.**
- *People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.*

What does this mean?

- As a precaution boil the water before consuming until advised otherwise.
- Fecal coliform and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems.
- The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice. People at increased risk should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. *Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.*

What is being done?

- Disinfection and flushing of the system will be completed this week. We currently expect this to occur by late Wednesday.
- Bacteriological samples of the water will be collected as soon as normal operations return. We expect those samples as soon as Thursday and will post the results when we receive them. The testing normally takes 24 hours.
- Personnel are closely monitoring the situation and will update users.
- For more information, please contact 406-257-5861.
- General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

**Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice.*

This notice is being sent to you by Flathead County Water District #1 – Evergreen (Evergreen Water & Sewer)
State Water System ID#: MT0001744

Date and Method: 8/29/2022. Posting at www.evergreenwaterdistrict.com; on public bulletin boards in Evergreen's service area.
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