



WaterSmart NEWS

PUBLIC NOTICE

HARMONY WATER SYSTEM PWS # 349-4427

ATTENTION: RESIDENTS OF THE HARMONY
WATER SYSTEM

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR
DRINKING WATER

Tests Showed the Presence of Coliform Bacteria

Our water system violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers in the Harmony CDD Water System (PWS ID# 349-4427), you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

The Tohopekeliga Water Authority routinely monitors for drinking water contaminants. On 13, 15, 18 and 21 August 2009, we took a total of 24 distribution samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria. Four (4) of our samples tested positive for coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than one (1) distribution sample per month may test positive.

What should I do?

You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.

However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

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?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing. Further testing conducted on 21 August 2009 showed that the bacteria were no longer present in the water distribution system. This situation will be resolved after five satisfactory distribution sample results are obtained in September 2009 as required. Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with our treatment or distribution system (pipes). Coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

What happened? What was done?

We took 10 additional distribution samples throughout the water system on 18 August 2009 for coliform bacteria which all came back negative. As an added precaution, we flushed the pipes in the distribution system to make sure bacteria were eliminated.

For more information, please contact Ms. Mary Rose Guidone of the Tohopekeliga Water Authority at (407) 518-2397 or write to Tohopekeliga Water Authority, Utility Information Coordinator, 101 North Church Street, Kissimmee, FL 34741-5054. Information can also be found on the internet at: WWW.TOHOWATER.COM

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly. You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

Date Delivered: 31 August 2009