



Boil Water Notice: Overview

- Preparedness Coordinating Council, 2024

Public Water System Supervision Program

- **Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)**, 1974:
 - EPA: authority to regulate public drinking water nationally.
 - Provisions for states to obtain “primacy” to enforce SDWA.
- Texas retains **primacy** for the Act and its amendments by maintaining a Public Water Supply Supervision Program
- SDWA is designed to protect through a “**multi-barrier approach**” that considers all threats (natural and human-made) and establishes barriers to either eliminate or minimize their impacts.

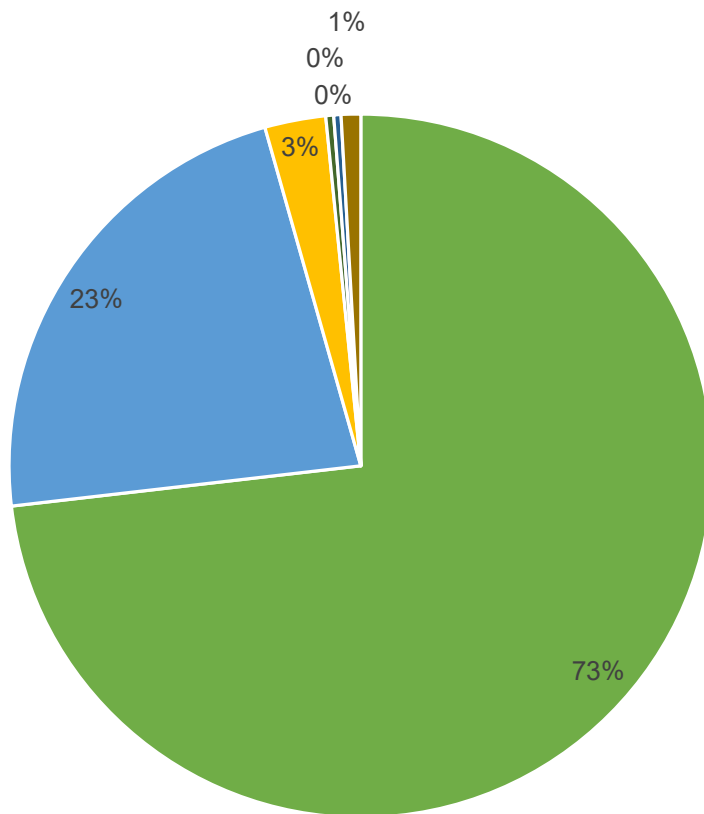
What is a Boil Water Notice (BWN)?



A notice to water consumers to **boil** their water prior to **human consumption**

- 2 minutes, rolling boil
- Washing hands/face, brushing teeth, drinking, etc.

When is a BWN Required?



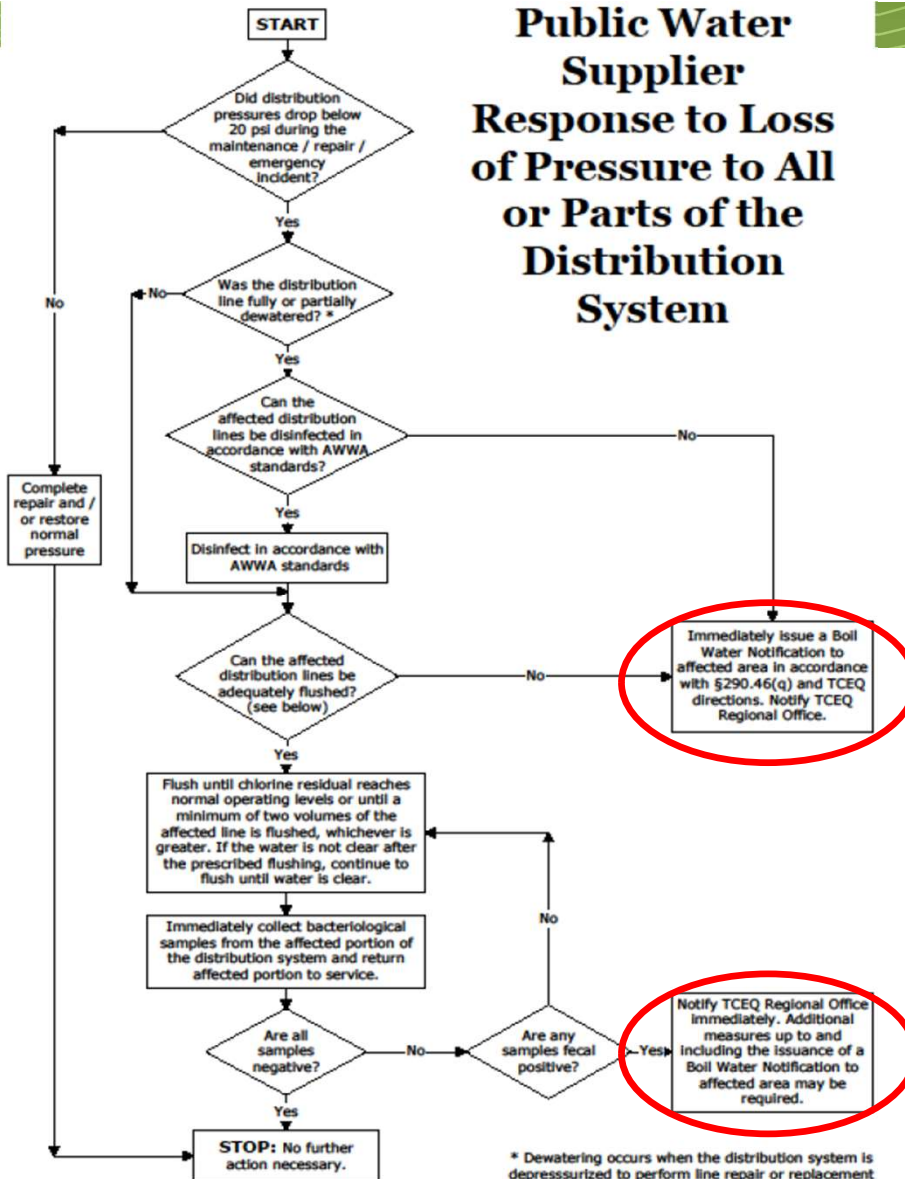
- LOW DISTRIBUTION PRESSURE
- WATER OUTAGE
- DISINFECTANT RESIDUAL
- MICROBIOLOGICAL
- TURBIDITY
- OTHER

BWNs by Reason and Year

BWN Reason by Year	2024 as of 6/30/2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
LOW DISTRIBUTION PRESSURE	1616	2616	1778	2612	182	700	1103
WATER OUTAGE	288	802	1140	1175	1396	1208	713
DISINFECTANT RESIDUAL	49	103	106	58	15	81	63
MICROBIOLOGICAL	4	13	45	15	7	19	28
TURBIDITY	13	12	26	5	1	8	41
OTHER*	86	32	48	82	107	27	45
TOTAL	2056	3578	3143	3947	1708	2043	1993

Is a BWN always required?

Public Water Supplier Response to Loss of Pressure to All or Parts of the Distribution System



When must a BWN be issued?

- TCEQ:
“Immediately”
- Customers: As soon as possible, but no later than 24 hours.



Immediate Notification Form (HB3810)

Immediate Notification for Water Outage, Boil Water, Do-Not-Use, and Do-Not-Consume Notices

Non-industrial public water systems (PWS) must immediately notify TCEQ of an unplanned condition that has caused a public water supply outage or the public water supply system to issue a do-not-use advisory, do-not-consume advisory, or boil water notice (BWN). [Per Texas Health and Safety Code (THSC) subsection 341.033(i)(6) added by House Bill 3810, passed in the 88th Legislative Regular Session].

PWSs are also required to issue a BWN water notice, do-not-use advisory, or do-not-consume advisory within 24 hours, and submit a copy of the initial BWN Certificate of Delivery, the Rescind Notice, and its Certificates of Delivery to TCEQ within 10 days of public distribution as proof of public notification.

Who must issue a BWN?



- Public water systems
- Opt-in to notifications from your provider



How must the BWN be issued?

Community

- Furnish copy to Radio/TV in the service area
- Publication in a local, daily newspaper
- Direct delivery or continuous posting*
- Electronic delivery or alert systems (e.g. reverse 911)

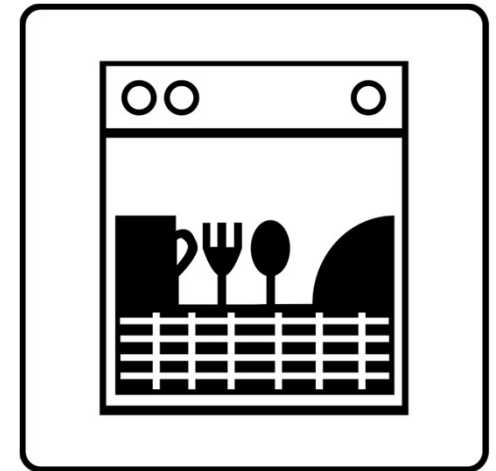
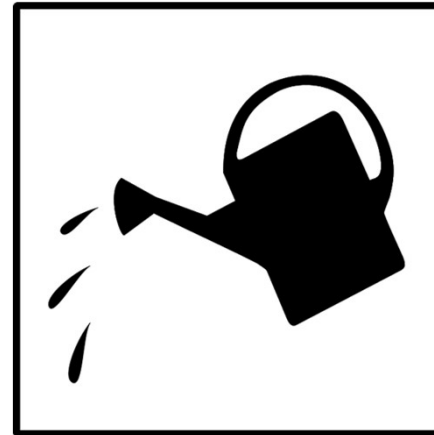
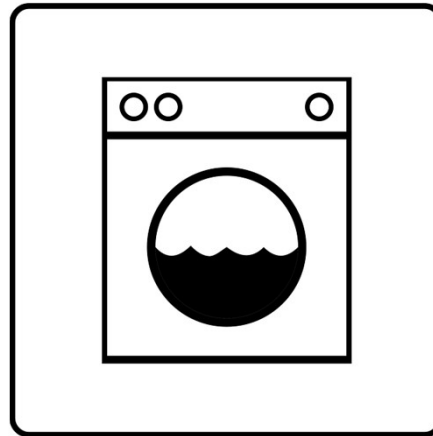
Non-Community

- Direct delivery or continuous posting*
- Electronic delivery or alert systems (e.g. reverse 911)



How to use water during a BWN

According to the [Centers for Disease Control](#):



How can we minimize impact of a BWN?

Communication

- Establish contacts
- Discuss, plan and practice
 - Prepare pre-approved templates for:
 - Notices
 - Public service announcements.

Preparation

- Evaluate water usage
- ID alternatives during a BWN
 - Second source
 - Bottled, trucked
 - Disposable serving, utensils
 - On-site storage
- [CDC Guide](#), [DSHS Guide](#)

What is needed to rescind or “lift”?

- **Step 1:** Resolve the issue that led to the BWN
- **Step 2:** Check that the system is consistently compliant
- **Step 3:** Confirm system health with bacteriological samples



Credit: Moccacino, Pixabay.com

“Other” Special Precautions

- Do not Drink
- Do not Consume
- Do not Use

Resources- BWN Quick Guide



Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Water Supply Division

September 2017

Boil Water Notices

A Boil Water Notice (BWN) is issued as a precaution or notification to protect consumers from drinking water that may have been contaminated with disease causing organisms (also called pathogens). BWNs are typically issued when an unexpected condition has caused a potential for biological contamination of potable drinking water in a public water system.

BWNs are instituted by public water systems (PWSs) as specified by Title 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §290.46(q) in the event of:

- low distribution pressures (below 20 pounds per square inch (psi)),
- water outages,
- microbiological samples found to contain *E. coli*,
- failure to maintain adequate disinfectant residuals,
- elevated finished surface water turbidities,
- or other conditions which indicate that the potability of the drinking water supply has been compromised.

The PWS should issue a BWN with specific mandatory language within 24 hours of meeting any of

Laboratories- Interactive Map

TX Drinking Water Public ...

▼ Texas drinking water public labs, testing for microbial total coliforms, lead and copper, and/or water quality parameters.
109,157 views
Published on June 26
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All Public Labs

- 1 A & B Environmental Services, Inc.
- 2 Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District
- 3 Alamo Analytical Laboratories, Ltd.
- 4 ALS Laboratory Group, Environmental Services ...

The map displays various locations in Texas, including Henrietta, Sherman, Denton, Frisco, McKinney, Greenville, Grapevine, Dallas, Fort Worth, Mansfield, Burleson, Waxahachie, Granbury, Weatherford, Mineral Wells, and Stephenville. Numerous blue circular markers with numbers are scattered across the map, representing the locations of the public labs.