



Flint's Water Crisis

On January 16, 2016, President Obama signed an emergency declaration ordering federal assistance to support state and local response efforts in Flint, Michigan.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has been designated the lead federal agency responsible for coordinating federal government response and recovery efforts. In collaboration with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), HHS will identify and mobilize the capabilities of the rest of the federal partners – including the Small Business Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Education and Agriculture (USDA) -- that are already working to help residents in Flint.

The goal of the federal response is to help state and local leaders identify the size and scope of the problem, and work with them to make and execute a plan for mitigation of the short- and long-term health effects of lead exposure.

A task force is providing technical assistance on reconnecting the Flint drinking water system to a new source.

On October 16, 2015, EPA established the Flint Safe Drinking Water Task Force to provide the Agency's technical expertise through regular dialogue with designated officials from Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the City of Flint. The Task Force will be led by the Region 5 Deputy Regional Administrator and will assist with developing and implementing a plan to secure water quality, including measures to optimize corrosion control.

The following is a flyer released by EPA in response to affected Flint residents.

Flint Residents: Information on Drinking Water



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention believe there is no safe level of lead exposure. Lead is harmful to health, especially for children. While paint, dust, and soil are the most common sources of lead, it can also enter drinking water when service pipes that contain lead corrode. In addition to the corrosion control strategies that are used by water utilities, important steps can be taken at home to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water.

Normally, EPA recommends running your water before use, when it has not been used for long periods of time. However, due to Flint's recent return to using water from the Great Lakes Water Authority, the protective coating within service lines is being built up to appropriate levels. EPA is currently collecting samples to determine when the water is safe to drink.

You can have your water tested.

Flint residents can call the city or the state for a FREE water test. City of Flint Water Plant 810-787-6537, then press 1
Flint residents may email: flintwater@cityofflint.com

Important Tips

- Do not drink water directly out of the tap or a water fountain
- Do not cook with unfiltered water*
- You can wash your hands with unfiltered water
- You can bathe and shower in unfiltered water

* *Pregnant women or children under six should use only bottled water for drinking, cooking or making formula*

January 30, 2016

Until further notice:

All Flint Residents

Residents should drink or cook with either bottled water or cold water that has been through an NSF-certified water filter that is rated to remove "total lead".

Pregnant women and children under six

Vulnerable populations, especially pregnant women and children under six years old, should drink bottled water until they get results showing that lead in their water is below 150 parts per billion.

Residents are encouraged to have their water tested to be sure the levels are below 150 parts per billion. EPA is also sampling drinking water in households with known lead levels of 100 parts per billion or higher, in order to test the effectiveness of these filters at removing lead at high concentrations.

For more information:
www.epa.gov/Flint