

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in Town of Florence Water Company, PWS ID# AZ0411056

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. During the month of May 2010, we took 18 routine samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria. 2 of these routine samples and none of our repeat samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. Since the standard is that no more than one sample result per month may be positive for the presence of total coliforms, we are required to inform you of the fact by distributing this public notice.

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. 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.*

Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the system's treatment or distribution system (pipes). 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.**

What is being done?

We have collected the required repeat samples at the original, upstream and downstream sample locations and at the Town's three drinking water wells. All samples were negative for coliforms. We believe this violation was caused by windy conditions the day of sampling. For more information, please contact Kate Milzarski at 520-868-7677.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by **Town of Florence Water Company**
State Water System ID#: **AZ0411056**
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