

The West Cumberland Utility District has exceeded the maximum contaminant level for Lead.

During our last Lead & Copper sampling the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile action level for lead was exceeded. West Cumberland Utility is educating the customers that received these high levels on ways to reduce the exposure to lead in their water. The lead came from the customers service line and is not in the water system.

We are currently engaged in steps to identify the source of lead in the drinking water. We encourage residents of this location to take extra precautions with the drinking water until this issue is resolved.

WCUD is taking the following steps to mitigate the high lead levels sampled: resampling to isolate where the greatest exposure risks are, service lines from our main lines to the customers meter have been replaced and we are working to identify the consumers service lines for lead through the lead service line inventory.

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<p>The results of the most recent testing period has shown that at least 10% of tested connections have experienced lead levels of at least <u>0.0479</u> mg/L.</p>
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The MCLG, or maximum contaminant level goal for lead is zero mg/L. It is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. The action level for lead is 0.015 mg/L. It is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Although most lead exposure occurs when people eat paint chips and inhale dust, or from contaminated soil, the EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of human exposure to lead may come from lead in drinking water. Lead is rarely found in source water, but enters tap water through corrosion of plumbing materials. Homes built before 1986 are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures and solder. However, new homes are also at risk: even legally designated "Lead-Free" plumbing may contain up to 8 percent lead. The most common source is brass and chrome-plated brass faucets and fixtures which can leach significant amount of lead into water, especially hot water.

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.

The following are ways customers can reduce their exposure to lead in drinking water:

- (I) Run your water to flush out lead. If it hasn't been used for several hours, run water for 15-30 seconds, or until it becomes cold, or until it reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing removes water containing lead from the plumbing lines.
- (II) Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Lead dissolves more easily into heated water. Boiling water does not reduce lead. Use cold flushed water for cooking and preparing baby formula.
- (III) Look for alternative sources or treatment of water. You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the packaging to ensure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-2010 or [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) for more information on performance standards for water filters.
- (IV) Test your water for lead.
- (V) Get your child tested. Visit the Tennessee Department of Health to learn more about children and lead, or contact your healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you concerned about lead exposure. <http://www.tn.gov/health/article/lead>
- (VI) Identify your plumbing fixtures containing lead. New brass faucets, fittings, and valves, even those advertised as "Lead-Free" may contribute lead to drinking water. Tennessee law currently restricts the sale of plumbing fixtures not considered to be "lead-free."

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead), contact your health care provider, or reach out to the State of Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation by e-mailing: [DWRWater.Compliance@tn.gov](mailto:DWRWater.Compliance@tn.gov) ATTN: Lead and Copper in Drinking Water.

Your local water utility can be reached at [\(931\) 277-5376](tel:9312775376).

PWS Name

PWS# TN000