

**APRIL 17, 2024**  
**Precautionary boil water notice**  
**PWS 6530408**



**City of**  
**Lake Wales**  
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Lake Wales, FL 33859  
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**Subject: Park Water Service Area – Emergency Water Outage – Boil Water Notice**

**Re: water main break**

Dear Water System Owner:

Water pressure keeps unhealthy pollutants from entering the underground pipes that bring drinking water to your house or business. When the pressure is lost, contaminants can seep into the pipes. This might allow pathogens (disease-causing germs) into the water that can cause illness if one drinks it, prepares food, or beverages with it. So, as a precaution, it is important to disinfect tap water to kill bacteria or viruses that may have entered the water line (pipe).

Under a precautionary boil water notice, water used for consumption can be disinfected by any one of the following methods:

- Bringing the water to a rolling boil and holding it there for one (1) minute
- Using a disinfecting chemical. If you cannot boil water, you should put eight (8) drops of common household bleach which is about 1/8<sup>th</sup> teaspoon, into one (1) gallon of tap water, then shake it, and allow it to stand for 30 minutes before drinking. If the water is cloudy, use sixteen (16) drops, about 1/4 teaspoon of bleach, shake it, and let it stand for 30 minutes. There should be a slight chlorine odor. Use common household bleach that has 5 to 6% active ingredients. Use food grade container. Don't use bleach that has perfume scents added.
- Using water purification tablets or iodine that many sports and camping stores sell.

You can also buy commercial bottled water for consumption and food preparation.

Consumption includes brushing teeth, washing fruits and vegetables, and homemade ice. Tap water may be used for showering, baths, shaving and washing, so long as care is taken not to swallow or allow water in eyes or nose or mouth. Children and disabled individuals should have their bath supervised to ensure water is not ingested. The time spent bathing should be minimized. Though the risk of illness is minimal, individuals who have recent surgical wounds, are immune-suppressed, or have a chronic illness may want to consider using bottle or boil water for cleansing until the notice is lifted.

After the water system is repaired, and the pressure is restored in the pipes to your home or business, the precautionary boil water notice will remain in effect for one to several days while the bacteria tests are conducted to assure the safety of the water. The notice will be lifted (rescinded) only after the tests prove the water is safe to drink.

The employees of the **City of Lake Wales**, your public water system, take great care in assuring that your water is safe to drink, and we appreciate your cooperation with the precautionary boil water notice to protect public health during this difficult time. Please call us at the phone number above if you have questions or concerns.

City of Lake Wales  
Water Department