

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

FORT BEND COUNTY MUD 141 COPPER ACTION LEVEL TRIGGERED

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) sets minimum water quality standards for public drinking water. Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. Even though this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

In September 2020 Fort Bend County MUD 141 conducted routine monitoring for lead and copper levels in the water. **All lead levels met safe drinking water requirements; however elevated copper levels were detected which triggered required follow-up actions.** The sample locations where elevated copper levels occurred recorded low or no water usage for several weeks prior to the sample collection; therefore, the district believes the samples did not represent the quality of the water throughout the water district. Follow up monitoring was conducted in November 2020 and in June 2021 and all results showed lead and copper levels were below the regulatory action levels of 1.3 mg/L for copper and 15 µg/L for lead.

Actions to evaluate the water for corrosion control treatment are required when an Action Level is triggered for copper. The list below has the corrosion control treatment actions which we did not complete within the required time allowed by drinking water regulations.

- Failed to submit recommendations for optimal corrosion control treatment
- Failed to submit recommendations for source water treatment of lead and copper

The required submittal of optimal corrosion control treatment and source water treatment recommendations to TCEQ was completed on August 12, 2021.

What should I do?

Listed below are some steps you can take to reduce your exposure to copper:

- Call us at the number below to find out how to get your water tested for lead and copper.
- Find out whether your pipes contain lead, lead solder, or copper.
- Run your water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes any standing lead or copper from the pipes.
- Use the cold water tap for cooking drink; lead and copper dissolve more easily into hot water.
- **Boiling water does not remove lead and copper.** Excessive boiling water makes the lead and copper more concentrated – the lead and copper remain when the water evaporates.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified **within 24 hours**. Typically, lead and copper enters water supplies by leaching from lead, copper or brass pipes and plumbing components. New lead pipes and plumbing components containing lead are no longer allowed for this reason. **However**, many older homes may contain lead pipes. Your water is more likely to contain high lead levels if water pipes in/or leading to your home are made of lead or contain lead solder.

Children and adults who drink water containing copper in excess could experience stomach and intestinal distress as well as liver and/or kidney damage

Copper Health Effects

Short term exposure: Gastrointestinal distress; Long term exposure: Liver or kidney damage, People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor if the amount of copper in their water exceeds the action level.

What is being done?

The optimal corrosion control treatment and source water treatment recommendations were submitted to TCEQ on August 5, 2021.

For more information, please contact our Compliance Team at 281-367-5511.

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 FORT BEND COUNTY MUD 141.
State Water System ID# 0790451.

Date distributed: August 18, 2021