

Frequently asked questions about a Boil Advisory:

What is a Boil Advisory?

It's a notification that advises residents to boil their tap water used for consumption (drinking, cooking, making ice, washing dishes etc.), because their water may be contaminated. A yellow card will be given out when a boil advisory is in effect until laboratory results show that water is safe for consumption.

Why was a Boil Advisory issued?

The most common reason for a boil advisory is due to loss of pressure in the water distribution system. This is often a result from water line breaks and emergency repairs. Utilities use a boil advisory as a precaution to protect consumers from drinking water that may have been contaminated.

How do I boil my water so that it is safe to drink?

Bring water to a full rolling boil for 1 minute, then allow the water to cool before use. Because it may take 30 minutes to cool, plan ahead. Make up a batch of boiled water in advance so you will not be tempted to use it hot and risk scalds or burns. Boiled water may be used for drinking, cooking, and washing.

How long will the Boil Advisory be in effect?

A blue card will be given out when the boil advisory has been lifted. Typically a boil advisory event lasts for 24 to 48 hours. Although unlikely, this can be longer and the need to boil water may last for several days. How long depends on the conditions that cause the need to boil, how quickly the conditions can be corrected, and how long it takes for laboratory results to confirm that the water is safe for consumption.

The City of Bedford does realize that a boil advisory is an inconvenience to our residents. Your patience and cooperation throughout the process is greatly appreciated. If you have any further questions please contact:

John Sokolowski
Water Superintendent
(440) 735-6588