

**BOIL WATER ADVISORY
BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING**

Escherichia coli (*E. coli*) bacteria were found at one of the five sources in the Socorro Water System (WSS #3523728) on 7/16/10. This type of bacteria can make you sick, and is a particular concern for people with weakened immune systems.

Socorro Water System has five (5) sources of drinking water Evergreen Well, South Industrial Well, Eagle Picher Well, Socorro Spring and Sedillo Spring. Only one (1) source (Sedillo Spring) tested positive for *E. coli*. The other four (4) sources Evergreen Well, South Industrial Well, Eagle Picher Well and Socorro Spring tested negative for *E. coli*. And, all eight (8) distribution samples tested negative for *E. coli*. Source samples are collected prior to disinfection and distribution samples are collected after disinfection. Socorro Water System uses gas chlorine for disinfection. The Sedillo Spring source sample was collected prior to disinfection.

What should I do?

CONSUMERS OF THE SOCORRO WATER SYSTEM, IN CITY OF SOCORRO, ARE ADVISED TO BOIL DRINKING WATER AND ALL WATER USED FOR COOKING, DISHWASHING, HANDWASHING, AND BRUSHING TEETH FOR FIVE (5) MINUTES BEFORE USE. THIS INCLUDES WATER USED FOR MAKING ICE AND WATER THAT HAS BEEN TREATED BY REVERSE OSMOSIS UNITS.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets drinking water standards and has determined that the presence of fecal coliforms or *E. coli* is a serious health concern. Fecal coliforms and *E. coli* are generally not harmful themselves, but their presence in drinking water is serious because they usually are associated with sewage or animal wastes. The presence of these bacteria in drinking water is generally a result of a problem with water organisms that can cause disease. Disease symptoms may include diarrhea, cramps, nausea, and possibly Jaundice, and associated headaches and fatigue. These symptoms, however, are not just associated with disease-causing organisms in drinking water, but may also be caused by a number of factors other than your drinking water. EPA has set an enforceable drinking water standard for fecal coliforms and *E. coli* to reduce the risk of these adverse health effects. Under this standard all drinking water samples must be free of these bacteria. Drinking water which meets this standard is associated with little or none of these risks and should be considered safe. State and local health authorities recommend that consumers take the following precautions:

People at increased risk (infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems) should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers or use bottled water.

What happened?

Bacterial contamination can occur when increased runoff enters the drinking water source (for example, following heavy rains). Socorro Water System has five (5) sources of drinking water Evergreen Well, South Industrial Well, Eagle Picher Well, Socorro Spring and Sedillo Spring. Only one source (Sedillo Spring) tested positive for *E. coli*. The other four (4) sources Evergreen Well, South Industrial Well, Eagle Picher Well and Socorro Spring tested negative for *E. coli*. All eight (8) distribution samples tested negative for *E. coli*. Socorro Water System is working in collaboration with the New Mexico Environmental Department and the New Mexico Rural Water Association. We anticipate resolving the problem within a few days.

What is being done?

We have increased the chlorination in the water system and are continuing our efforts to resolve this problem. We will inform you when sampling results show that no bacteria is in the water system and you no longer need to boil your water or drink bottled water. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-47941.

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