



Cochise Health & Social Services

Mary Gomez, Director

"Building A Healthier Future"

*** MEDIA RELEASE ***

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Limited Boil-Water Notice Issued for Southeast Sierra Vista Neighborhood

Cochise Health and Social Services was notified today by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality that certain East Slope Water Company customers should boil their water until further notice. Routine monthly water tests confirmed on August 7 the presence of E. coli bacteria in the water system.

To safely use the water, bring it to a full boil, let it boil for one minute, and let it cool before using. Bottled water is another safe alternative. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation. Boiling kills E. coli bacteria and coliforms.

The East Slope Water Company service area affected is located between Camino Principal and Ramsey Rd., East of Hwy 92. A map of the area may be viewed at http://cochise.az.gov/uploadedImages/Main_Page/EastslopeWaterEcoli080814.jpg.

The utility company suspects the problem occurred in a hydromatic tank, not the well itself (the well is completely sealed). Routine chlorination occurs in the hydromatic tanks. It is suspected that a valve may have become stuck in place and allowed untreated water to pass through the tank. System tests are ongoing to determine the precise problem.

The utility company has notified all affected customers by going door to door to let everyone know about the problem and what they should do until the problem is resolved. They have left information on safe water procedures (boiled water or bottled water) as well as contact information.

Disinfection efforts by the company will take 2 to 5 days according to the utility company.

County Environmental Health Services staff have visited all commercial establishments served by the East Slope Water Company to ensure proper procedures are being followed during this time. In addition, CHSS staff has tracked gastrointestinal illnesses in that neighborhood during the last six weeks and no increase in cases has been noted.

The main contact number of the utility company for customers to call is: 520-623-5172

The contact person for the utility company is Keith Dojaquez: 520-624-1460 ext. 102

The contact at Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is Janelle: 602-771-4572

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Public Programs, Personal Service: www.cochise.az.gov

Email: health@cochise.az.gov

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| Benson: | 126 W. 5 th Street, Benson, AZ 85602 | Phone: 520-586-8200 | Fax: 520-586-2051 |
| Douglas: | 515 7 th Street, Douglas, AZ 85607 | Phone: 520-805-5600 | Fax: 520-364-5453 |
| Sierra Vista: | 4115 E. Foothills Dr., Sierra Vista, AZ 85635 | Phone: 520-803-3900 | Fax: 520-459-8195 |
| Willcox: | 450 S. Haskell Ave., Willcox, AZ 85643 | Phone: 520-384-7100 | Fax: 520-384-0309 |



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About Cochise Health and Social Services

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, Cochise Health and Social Services promotes health and quality of life for all Cochise County residents through education, service, and leadership. For more information, including recent media releases, please visit our website at <http://cochise.az.gov/health>.

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