

PRESS RELEASE

Regarding Recent Boil Water Notice

September 29, 2016

HSB Experiences City-Wide Boil Water Notice

By Jeff Koska, Director of Community Services

On Saturday, September 24, 2016 the City of Horseshoe Bay issued a Boil Water Notice to all customers of the City's water system as required by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The City takes nine bacteriological samples monthly throughout the City. Eight of these samples tested negative for contamination; however one of these samples taken on Cats Eye Street in HSB West tested positive for coliform. Coliform is an indicator of the possible presence of bacteriological contamination, and due to this positive sample, additional samples were required to be tested.

The City issued the Boil Water Notice because one of the three repeat samples from that original positive coliform site resulted in a positive contamination with fecal coliform/*E. coli*. As this repeat sample was collected at a location that was not normally utilized as a normal sample site, it was not ideal and is the primary suspect as the reason for the positive result. Other samples, taken at the original test location and upstream tested negative of any contamination. Although it is anticipated the sample was contaminated due to the location and conditions in which the sample was collected, the City per TCEQ rules had to meet regulatory compliance and perform a City-wide boil water notice within 24 hours of confirmation of being positive. The same day an additional three samples were taken and all three samples tested negative of any further contamination.

This was the first City-wide Boil Water Notice issued since the City's inception 11 year ago. Even though the area of the City that was affected by the positive samples was limited, TCEQ requires that all customers are made aware of this public health issue within 24 hours of the City getting notice from the laboratory. Once the water quality was confirmed to be safe, the City rescinded the boil water notice.

City personnel worked through the weekend to flush the distribution system to ensure disinfection of the system, and the safety of the water remained the highest priority. Additional ongoing flushing and water quality monitoring will be performed to ensure public safety is maintained. A comprehensive assessment of the City's water system by a third party assessment firm to determine the cause of the positive samples is under way. City Staff remains committed to ensuring the safety of its water supply. If you have any questions or concerns about this or any other water integrity issue, please contact the City's Plant Operations Supervisor, Steve Hawley, at (830) 613-8974.

It is very important that all residents should sign up for Code Red Notifications as this system is utilized to rapidly contact residents for all emergency notifications due to dangerous weather conditions, public safety emergencies or in this case public health emergencies.

Please access the City's Website at <http://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/> or go directly to <https://public.coderedweb.com/cne/en-US/21C524DBEA1F> to sign up and begin receiving notifications. If you need assistance please contact the City Hall at (830) 598-8741, ext. 500.