



## MEDIA CONTACTS

[Burke Brennan](#), Press Secretary  
P: 404-371-6305 | M: 678-201-7209

[Emily Schwarz](#), Public Information Officer  
P: 404-371-2809 | M: 404-599-6881

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 25, 2015

# DeKalb County Boil Water Advisory - Countywide

**DECATUR, Ga.** – DeKalb County Department of Watershed Management announced that a loss in water pressure in the county has been experienced due to repair attempts on a 48-inch main transmission line that has resulted in three pressure reductions to the system in less than 36 hours which might pose a potential of water quality issues throughout the county.

Therefore in an abundance of caution for our citizens and to protect the public from any potential health hazards, citizens in the affected area are advised to boil all water prior to use for drinking, cooking or preparing baby food. The water should be boiled for at least one minute after reaching a rolling boil. Residents served by the DeKalb County Department of Watershed Management should continue to boil water until notified by DeKalb County that the water system has been restored to full operation and the microbiological quality of the water is safe for human use.

Technicians will then send samples of the water in the area for testing. After the test results are available, DeKalb County in conjunction with the EPD, will provide an update to the boil water status.

Preliminary testing conducted Friday, July 24, 2015 showed residual chlorine disinfectant present in the system and no bacteriological contamination. Additional Samples have been collected today and will be collected during this event to further verify water quality.

This “precautionary boil water advisory” will remain in effect until the problem has been corrected and a bacteriological survey shows that the water is safe to drink.

Please refer to the attached fact sheet for further information.

DeKalb County is home to more than 700,000 residents. Follow news from DeKalb County at [@ItsInDeKalb](#) on Twitter and sign up for additional updates at [www.onedekalb.com](http://www.onedekalb.com) or send a text message with the word ONEDEKALB to 22828 (message and data rates may apply). Additional information can also be found at [www.dekalbcountyga.gov](http://www.dekalbcountyga.gov)

**Advisory** Developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Water Works Association in collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other partners. March 2013 - <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/dwa-comm-toolbox/tools-templates-main.html>

## **Fact Sheet About What to Do During a Boil Water Advisory**

### **Boiling water**

#### **To boil water**

- Fill a pot with water.
- Heat the water until bubbles come from the bottom of the pot to the top.
- Once the water reaches a rolling boil, let it boil for 1 minute.
- Turn off the heat source and let the water cool.
- Pour the water into a clean container with a cover for storage.

### **Disinfecting water**

If you are unable to boil your water, disinfect it instead.

#### **If tap water is clear:**

- Use unscented bleach (bleach that does not have an added scent).
- Add 1/8 teaspoon (8 drops or about 0.75 milliliters) of unscented household liquid bleach to 1 gallon (16 cups) of water.
- Mix well and wait 30 minutes or more before drinking.
- Store disinfected water in clean container with a cover.

#### **If tap water is cloudy:**

- Filter water using clean cloth.
- Use unscented bleach (bleach that does not have an added scent).
- Add 1/4 teaspoon (16 drops or 1.5 milliliters) of unscented household liquid bleach to 1 gallon (16 cups) of water.
- Mix well and wait 30 minutes or more before drinking.
- Store disinfected water in clean container with a cover.

Remember that containers may need to be sanitized before using them to store safe water.

#### **To sanitize containers:**

- Use unscented bleach (bleach that does not have an added scent).
- Make a sanitizing solution by mixing 1 teaspoon (5 milliliters) of unscented household liquid bleach in 1 quart (32 ounces, 4 cups, or about 1 liter) of water.
- Pour this sanitizing solution into a clean storage container and shake well, making sure that the solution coats the entire inside of the container.

## **Fact Sheet About What to Do During a Boil Water Advisory, continued**

- Let the clean storage container sit at least 30 seconds, and then pour the solution out of the container.
- Let empty container air dry OR rinse it with clean water that has already been made safe, if available. Never mix bleach with ammonia or other cleaners. Open windows and doors to get fresh air when you use bleach.

### **Water filters:**

Boil tap water even if it is filtered. Most kitchen and other household water filters typically **do not** remove bacteria or viruses.

### **Preparing and cooking food:**

- Wash all fruits and vegetables with boiled water that has cooled or bottled water.
- Bring water to a rolling boil for 1 minute before adding food to cook.
- Use boiled water when preparing drinks, such as coffee, tea, and lemonade
- Wash food preparation surfaces with boiled water.

### **Feeding babies and using formula:**

- Breastfeeding is best. Continue to breastfeed. If breastfeeding is not an option:
- Use ready-to-use baby formula, if possible.
- Prepare powdered or concentrated baby formula with bottled water. Use boiled water if you do not have bottled water. Disinfect water for baby formula if you cannot boil your water (see above for directions on how to use bleach to disinfect water).
- Wash and sterilize bottles and nipples before use.
- If you cannot sterilize bottles, try to use single-serve, ready-to-feed bottles.

### **Ice:**

- Do not use ice from ice trays, ice dispensers, or ice makers.
- Throw out all ice made with tap water.
- Make new ice with boiled or bottled water.

### **Bathing and showering**

Be careful not to swallow any water when bathing or showering.

Use caution when bathing babies and young children. Consider giving them a sponge bath to reduce the chance of them swallowing water.

## Fact Sheet About What to Do During a Boil Water Advisory, continued

### Brushing teeth

Brush teeth with boiled or bottled water. Do not use untreated tap water.

### Washing dishes

Household dishwashers generally are safe to use if the water reaches a final rinse temperature of at least 150 degrees or if the dishwasher has a sanitizing cycle.

To wash dishes by hand:

- Wash and rinse the dishes as you normally would using hot water.
- In a separate basin, add 1 teaspoon of unscented household liquid bleach for each gallon of warm water.
- Soak the rinsed dishes in the water for at least one minute.
- Let the dishes air dry completely.

### Laundry

It is safe to do laundry as usual.

### Pets

Pets can get some of the same diseases as people. It is a good idea to give them boiled water that has been cooled.

### For more information, see or contact:

- [Personal Preparation and Storage of Safe Water](#): CDC provides guidance on the amount of water needed for good health, as well how to prepare and store safe water before and during an emergency.
- [Hygiene and Handwashing](#): CDC provides guidance on alternative hygienic practices when water is not available or is contaminated.
- [A Guide to Water Filters](#): CDC maintains a guide for filters that remove *Cryptosporidium* or *Giardia*.
- EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 1-800-426-4791
- [Consumer Information](#) : EPA provides information and guidance about drinking water quality, emergencies, contaminants, public health issues, and treatment and storage.