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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

[Contaminant, Action Level Exceedance for Lead Grand County Water & Sanitation Dist. #1]

Dear Grand County Water & Sanitation water customer,

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did/are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Lead and Copper testing results on 9/6/2017 show that our system exceeds the standard, or Action level for lead. The standard for Lead is 0.015 mg/l (milligrams per liter, is the same as parts per million). It is determined by averaging all the samples to the 90th percentile collected at each sampling location for the past 36 months. The level of lead at 4 of the 20 samples collected came back higher than 0.015mg/l causing less than 90 percent of the samples to pass. Our average came out to 0.016mg/l. Once that State mandated level is exceeded, the water system is bound by additional requirements of testing and increased sampling, public notification and education, water quality monitoring and water treatment process changes if necessary.

What does this mean for Grand County Water & Sanitation water users? This is not an emergency. If it had been you would have been notified within 24 hours. Grand County Water & Sanitation District Staff takes all health concerns seriously and will continue proactive testing of water quality.

What should I do? There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours. Lead and Copper can be precipitated by water from pipes and fixtures in homes and in system distribution piping.

What is being done? Grand County Water & Sanitation will begin to collect 40 samples every 6 months beginning January 1, 2018. A corrosion control treatment system will be added to our treatment process as soon as possible and testing will be stepped up to keep track of the effectiveness of this change. Adjustment and any other changes will be addressed as needed.

*Please share this information with anyone who drinks this water and or anyone who may not have received this notice.

For more information, please contact Grand County Water & Sanitation Dist. #1 at (970) 726-5583.

This notice is being sent to you by Grand County Water & Sanitation Dist. #1. State Water System ID# 125323.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

Public Water System ID: CO 0125323

System Name: Grand County Water & Sanitation District # 1

Our system found elevated levels of lead in the drinking water in some homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

Health Effects of Lead

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

Sources of Lead

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. The main sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the work place and exposure from certain hobbies (lead can be carried on clothing or shoes).

Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free", may contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to eight percent lead to be labeled as "lead free". However, plumbing fixtures labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified may only have up two percent lead. Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions.

When water is in contact with pipes or plumbing that contains lead for several hours, the lead may enter drinking water. Homes built before 1986 are more likely to have plumbing containing lead. New homes may also have lead; even "lead-free" plumbing may contain some lead. EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Infants who consume mostly formula mixed with the lead-containing water can receive 40 to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water.

Don't forget about other sources of lead such as lead paint, lead dust, and lead in soil. Wash your children's hands and toys often as they can come into contact with dirt and dust containing lead.

Steps You Can take to Reduce Your Exposure to Lead in Your Water

1. **Run your water to flush out lead.** If it hasn't been used for several hours, run the cold water tap until the temperature is noticeably colder. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes. To conserve water, remember to catch the flushed tap water for plants or some other household use (e.g. cleaning).
2. **Always use cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.** Never cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Never use water from the hot water tap to make formula.
3. **Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead.**
4. **Periodically remove and clean the faucet's strainer/aerator.** While removed, run the water to remove debris.
5. **You may consider investing in a home water treatment device or alternative water source.** When purchasing a water treatment device, make sure it is certified under Standard 53 by NSF International to remove lead. Contact NSF at 1-800-NSF-8010 or visit www.nsf.org. You may also visit the Water Quality Association's website at www.wqa.org.
6. **Test your water for lead.** Call us at the number below to find out how to get your water tested for lead. A list of certified laboratories is listed at www.colorado.gov/cdphe/laboratory-certification-program.
7. **Get your child's blood tested.** Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about exposure.
8. **Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead.** Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead. Brass faucets, fittings and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may leach lead into drinking water. The NSF website at www.nsf.org has more information on lead-containing plumbing fixtures. You should use only lead-certified contractors.
9. **Have a licensed electrician check your wiring.** If grounding wires from the electrical system are attached to your pipes, corrosion may be greater. Check with a licensed electrician or your local electric code to determine if your wiring can be grounded elsewhere. **DO NOT** attempt to change the wiring yourself because improper grounding can cause electrical shock and fire hazards.

What happened & What is being done?

Grand County Water & Sanitation Dist. #1 found high levels of lead in drinking water in some homes. Lead can cause serious health problems. For more information please call Grand County Water & Sanitation or visit www.wpgov.com. Grand County Water has submitted plans for a change in the treatment process to the Colorado Department of Health and is awaiting approval. This change will be implemented at that time. Increased sampling and monitoring has begun and will continue as long as needed to insure the safety of everyone Grand County Water & Sanitation District #1 serves.

For More Information

For more information call us at [970-726-5583],

or visit our Web site at www.wpgov.com or www.sdaco.org

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/lead> or contact your health care provider.

Notice Provided by: Grand County Water & Sanitation Dist. #1

Date: 11-16-2017