

DRINKING WATER WARNING

The Idaho City Water System has high turbidity levels

BOIL WATER ADVISORY

We routinely monitor your water for turbidity (cloudiness). This tells us whether we are effectively filtering the water supply. Water samples taken on March 17, 2011, showed elevated turbidity levels. Because of these high levels of turbidity, there is an increased chance that the water may contain disease-causing organisms.

What should I do?

DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST. Bring all water to a boil, let it boil for one minute, and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, washing dishes, brushing teeth, and food preparation until further notice.

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

What happened? What is being done?

What happened: The turbidity measured in the water leaving the filter plant has increased above the normal operating level. This increase may be a seasonal issue related to spring runoff. Turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth.

What is being done: The Idaho City Water Department and the Department of Environmental Quality are working together to monitor the turbidity level in the filtered water. Samples are being collected to ensure that the elevated turbidity levels do not pose a threat to human health.

We will inform you when turbidity returns to appropriate levels and when you no longer need to boil your water.

For more information, please contact **Tammy Ellsworth**, City Clerk, at (208) **392-4584**, Water O.I.C. **Butch Anderson** at, **424-3352**, or **Brandon Lowder** of the Department of Environmental Quality at (208) **373-0166**. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791.

This notice is being provided to you by the Idaho City Water Department, Public Water System Id # 4080025.

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