



Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Lead Copper Rule for Community Water Systems Form 20682

**Lead Exceedance Public Education Requirements
FOR COMMUNITIES**

City of Hilshire Village found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in the home(s) at the community during **July 25, 2015**. 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.

This notice is being sent to you by **City of Hilshire Village** Texas State Water System ID # **1012987** on **October 6, 2015**.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and **City of Hilshire Village** are concerned about lead in your drinking water. Although most sinks had low levels of lead in the drinking water, some had high lead levels above the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb), or 0.015 milligrams of lead per liter of water (mg/L).

Please note, this is not a violation under federal or state law, it does however, prompt **City of Hilshire Village** to have post Lead Public Education and if found to have a high level reading in subsequent sampling, a program in place to minimize lead in your drinking water by the end of December 2015. This program may include adding corrosion control treatment, source water treatment, and if necessary replacing lead service lines.

If you have any questions about how we are carrying out the requirements of the lead regulation, please give Susan Blevins, City Administrator/City Secretary at **713-973-1779**.

This document explains the simple steps you can take to protect you and your family by reducing your exposure to lead in drinking water while in the **City of Hilshire Village** home(s).

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). Lead is found in some toys, some playground equipment, and some children's metal jewelry.

Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure, particularly the exposure of infants who drink baby formulas and concentrated juices that are mixed with water. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that drinking water can make up 20 percent or more of a person's total exposure to lead. Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or the wearing away of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and household plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome plated brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect your house to the water main (service lines). In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and in 2011 restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials to 0.25%.

When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning, or later in the afternoon after returning from work or school, can contain fairly high levels of lead.

Steps You Can Take to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water

1. Run water to flush out lead. Run water for 15 - 30 seconds to flush lead from interior plumbing or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking, if it hasn't been used for several hours.

2. Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Don't use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.

3. Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead.

4. Look for alternative sources or treatment of water. You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality. Contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or www.nsf.org for information on performance standards for water filters.

5. 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.

What Happened and What is Being Done

Since 1990, TCEQ has required annual water sampling for lead and copper from 10 residences in the City of Hilshire Village. The sample set was selected based on the age of home (built prior to 1982), type of interior plumbing (lead pipe or copper with lead solder), and remains static for each sampling period. This routine sampling was completed in July 2015 from the set of 10 taps. Although most tap samples had low levels of lead in the drinking water, some had high lead levels above the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb), or 0.015 milligrams of lead per liter of water (mg/L). All ten owners of the sample set have been notified of their respective test results and advised of health effects of lead and how to reduce exposure.

In cooperation with TCEQ, the City of Hilshire Village will perform increased water sampling and treatment techniques as follows:

- 1. Tap Water Lead and Copper Monitoring:** A Public Water System (PWS) that exceeded the lead or copper action levels is required to **collect tap samples** in two consecutive six-month monitoring periods at the standard number of sample sites based on population. For Hilshire Village this sample set is 20 tap samples. The original set of sample taps must remain static for

- control purposes and 10 incremental sites will be selected per TCEQ parameters. The tap sampling will occur in January and July of 2016.
2. **Source Water Lead and Copper Monitoring:** A PWS is required to sample **source water entry point(s)** after an exceedance. Source Water Lead and Copper Monitoring should be collected at every entry point to the distribution system no later than 180 days after the end of the monitoring period during which the which the exceedance occurred.
 3. **Distribution System Water Quality Parameter (WQP) Monitoring:** A PWS is required to perform two consecutive six month periods of WQP monitoring **within the distribution system**. WQP monitoring consists of two sets of distribution system samples and must be submitted twice annually. Based on population size, Hilshire Village will test two (2) samples from the distribution system in each six month period.
 4. **Entry Point Water Quality Parameter (WQP) Monitoring:** A PWS is required to perform two consecutive six month periods of WQP monitoring **at the points of entry** to the distribution system. WQP monitoring consists of two (2) sets of entry point samples and must be submitted twice annually.

The City of Hilshire Village will notify all water service customers of the results of the increased testing program during each six month testing period. It is important to note that this increased testing will be conducted **in addition** to the current program of daily chlorine testing and quarterly Trihalomethanes by GC/MS and Haloacetic Acids testing.

As stated before, please contact Susan Blevins at the City Office at 713-973-1779 if you have questions about this program. Information on simple steps you can take to protect you and your family will also be available on the City's website www.hilshirevillagetexas.com.