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Public Health Services
Health Protection Division
Physical Location: 1 Hughson St N, 3rd Floor
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Hamilton



DRINKING WATER ADVISORY

TO: ALL USERS OF THE LYNDEN MUNICIPAL DRINKING WATER SYSTEM
FROM: The Medical Officer of Health for the City of Hamilton
DATE: September 7, 2011

On September 6th, 2011 the lab results for two water samples collected on September 4th, 2011 were reported to have lead concentrations of 0.0154 milligrams per litre of water (mg/L) and 0.0276 mg/L. The maximum acceptable concentration (MAC) for lead in drinking water is 0.0100 mg/L, or 10 parts per billion (ppb).

Consuming drinking water with slightly elevated lead concentrations for a short period of time is not a health risk. However, considering the prior history of intermittent increased lead levels in the Lynden drinking water system, the Medical Officer of Health recommends that a precautionary approach be taken. Accordingly, all users of the Lynden drinking water system are advised as follows:

DO NOT USE TAP WATER TO:

- Drink
- Make meals such as soup, stew, pasta, instant hot cereal, etc
- Make ice, juice, coffee, tea, puddings or other mixes, especially infant formula.

TAP WATER CAN BE USED TO:

- Wash fruits and vegetables, provided they are dried off prior to eating.
- Wash dishes, provided they are dried off with a clean towel prior to use.
- Shower and bathe.
- Wash hands, flush toilets, and laundry.
- Brush teeth, provided rinse water is not swallowed.

BOILING YOUR TAP WATER WILL NOT REMOVE OR REDUCE LEAD.

This Advisory will remain in place until Public Health Services is assured that lead concentrations in the drinking water supply are stable, below the MAC for lead in drinking water, and Public Works has determined and corrected the cause of the increased lead levels.

Public Works is obtaining water filters that meet NSF Standard #53 for lead removal. These filters should reduce the tap water lead concentrations to acceptable levels, provided the filter is used according to the manufacturer's instructions. Residents who wish to receive one of these filters are asked to contact Water/Waste Water Customer Service at 905-546-4426.

The City of Hamilton will provide regular updates regarding the Lynden municipal drinking water system in the near future.

If you already use a water filtration system that meets NSF Standard #53 for lead removal you may continue to use you tap water as usual, provided you operate and maintain your filtration system according to manufacturers' instructions.

Please read the attached Fact Sheet for more information.

Call Public Works at 905-546-4426 (between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm) if you have questions about the work being done on the Lynden Water system.

Call the Public Health Services Safe Water Information Line at 905-546-2189 if you have any health related questions about lead in your drinking water. Public Health Services has extended our hours of service and will be available 8:30 am to 8:00 pm to answer phone calls until September 9th. After September 9th Public Health staff will be available to answer questions Monday to Friday between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm.

Sincerely,

Dr. Elizabeth Richardson,
Medical Officer of Health,
City of Hamilton