

### **Why do I have to boil my water?**

When a water systems water pressure drops to low the water could become contaminated. Contamination may be due to equipment failure, leaking pipes in the system, or insufficient disinfectant in the water supply. TCEQ requires that the water system place customers under a boil water notice. This notice will not be lifted until the water system determines that the water is 100% safe to drink without being boiled.

### **How do I boil my water during an advisory?**

- 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 water into a clean container with a cover for storage

### **Should I use bottled water?**

You may choose to use bottled water if it is available.

### **I don't like the taste of boiled water. What can I do?**

To improve the taste you can:

- Pour cooled water back and forth from one clean glass into another to add air to the water.
- Let the water stand for a few hours.
- Add a pinch of salt to each quart of boiled water.

### **What about ice?**

- Do not use ice from ice trays, ice dispensers, or ice makers.
- Make new ice with boiled or bottled water.
- Purchase ice from the supermarket

### **What should I do about preparing food and beverages?**

#### **How should I wash fruit, vegetables, and preparation surfaces?**

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

### **Can I use tap water to brush my teeth?**

No. Do not use tap water to brush your teeth. Use boiled or bottled water.

### **Should I give my pet's boiled water?**

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

### **Is it safe to water my garden and house plants?**

You can use tap water for household plants and gardens.