

DRINKING WATER WARNING

Randlett and Ouray water is
Contaminated with *E. coli*

BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

What should I do?

DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST. Bring all water to a boil, let it boil for three (3) minutes, and let it cool before using *or* use bottled water. ***Boiled or bottled water*** should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation **until further notice**. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water.

What does this mean?

Inadequately treated or inadequately protected water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms can cause symptoms such as diarrhea, nausea, cramps and associated headaches. *E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely-compromised immune systems.* These symptoms 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?

Our water system detected *E. coli* bacteria in a pipe of our distribution system. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation. On (date) **08/10/2021**, we learned that coliform bacteria were present in at least one of our routine samples collected on (date) **08/09/2021**. As required by the Revised Total Coliform Rule, one of our follow-up steps was to collect repeat samples at and near the location where the positive sample was originally taken. On (date) **08/12/2021**, we learned that coliform bacteria were also present in at least one of our repeat samples collected on (date) **08/11/2021**. Our water system had a combination of routine and repeat positive samples where at least one of the positive coliform bacteria samples was also *E. coli* positive, which resulted in an *E. coli* maximum contaminant level (MCL) violation. We are now conducting a thorough investigation to determine the source of the contamination.

Corrective action being taken includes: Chlorine dosages are being increased to disinfect the water mains. Water will be flushed from the system at Ouray. Collection basins at both the Whiterocks and Uria Heeps will be disinfected with sodium hypochlorite. Please note that flushing the water mains may cause your water to be colored. Secondary Water can be obtained by calling Waylon Murdock 435-823-0383 or Tyrone McKewan 435-828-4893

We will inform you when tests show no bacteria and you no longer need to boil your water. We anticipate resolving the problem within the next week. For more information, please contact **Jenna Reed** at 435-725-4923 or **jennar@utetribes.com**

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.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.