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Water scare bothersome if nothing else

David Blake Reporting

A power surge caused a pressure drop which triggered the boil water advisory for the entire east bank of New Orleans and until testing can determine whether any harmful bacteria have made their way into the water supply due to low pressure in the pipes that advisory will continue. This is the second such advisory in two months.

It seems many residents either missed the advisory or choose not to do anything. What's likely to happen if someone drank the tap water without boiling first?

We asked Dr. Brobson Lutz with the Orleans Parish Medical Society.

"Well, probably nothing," he said.

Lutz says it's said it highly unlikely people are going to become ill if they either didn't hear the warning or choose not to follow the advice.

"The chances of anybody getting any intestinal disease or water related infections is little to nonresistant," said Dr. Lutz who added

"You still need to follow the advice of your political leaders at times like this."

City officials say customers should boil tap water for one full minute before using it for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, or preparing or rinsing food. When bathing or showering, people should be careful not to swallow water.

Here is the news release from the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board:

The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (S&WB) has issued a precautionary boil water advisory for the Eastbank of New Orleans. Residents in the affected area are advised not to drink, make ice, brush teeth, prepare or rinse food with tap water unless it has been properly disinfected until further notice. Residents are allowed to take a bath or shower as long as the following precautions are taken:

Care should be taken not to swallow any water.

Caution should be exercised when bathing the elderly, infants, and young children. A sponge bath should be considered to

reduce the chance of them swallowing water.

Customers on the Westbank of the city are not affected and do not need to boil their water.

The boil water advisory will remain in effect until further notice for customers in the affected area. S&WB will notify resident when the advisory is lifted. If you have any questions, please call 52WATER (529-2837).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR BOILING WATER

Boil water for one full minute in a clean container. The one-minute boil time begins after the water has been brought to a rolling boil. (If there is a flat taste, it can be eliminated by shaking the water in a bottle or pouring it from one container to another.)

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