PALM BEACH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Water Monitor

Scott A. Harrison, R.S., Editor in Chief
Mikeal Addison, IH, EHP, Contributing Editor
Cass Wright-Tate, Copy Editing

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1 AUGUST 2011

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Boil Water Notices - Reprise

Boil water notices are an important public notification tool used to alert the public regarding possible issues with their drinking water due to interruption, maintenance or contamination events.

In certain circumstances, boil water notices are required by rule. In order for the Palm Beach County Health Department to provide guidance to the public and the utilities and to keep the public informed, utilities must follow the proper notification procedures when issuing, clearing and rescinding boil water notices.

The Florida Administrative Code, Rule 62-555.335 adopted the Florida Department of Health's Guidelines for Issuance of Precautionary Boil Water Notices.

Each water system regulated by either the Florida Department of Environmental Protection or the Florida Department of Health must follow the Guidelines for Issuance of Precautionary Boil Water Notices.

It is important to remember that the language used in the Guidelines for Issuance of Precautionary Boil Water Notice templates must be included in all boil water notices and boil water rescind notices.

On the weekends or after hours call A.G. Holley at 561-582-5666 to notify them of boil water or rescind notices.

The following is a summary of the notification requirements:

- Issue the boil water notice to the public using the methods listed in the Guidelines and in 62-560.410.
- Fax or e-mail the notice to the Palm Beach County Health Department within 24 hours of issuing the notice to the public. This is in addition to any telephone calls.
- Conduct two consecutive days of total coliform clearance samples.
- Issue a boil water rescind notice to the public if the two days of clearance samples are absent.
- Fax or e-mail the rescind notice and clearance sample results to the department.

For further requirements please refer to Rule 62-560.410, F.A.C. and the Guidelines for Issuance of Precautionary Boil Water Notices.

And the Award Goes to...

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection recently announced that the Town of Jupiter has been selected to receive the 2010 U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Excellence Award for Large Ground Water Systems in region IV which comprises 8 states in the Southeastern US. Congratulations to the Town of Jupiter for winning this prestigious award!

Routine Flushing for Public Water Distribution Systems

A properly instituted flushing program can be an important maintenance tool for public drinking water systems.

Routine flushing can help mitigate many issues that water providers may experience. The following are just a few of those issues:

- Low Chlorine Residuals due to low demand and high residence times
- Sediment in water pipes
- Bio growth in pipes/ Nitrification

Taste and Odor Issues due to low demand and high residence times

Dead-end, and distribution system flushing shall be part of each utility's Operations and Maintenance Program. In addition, each flushing event must be recorded in the Operations and Maintenance log or in a flushing log.

Also, installation of a flushing hydrant for dead end pipelines is recommended. Flushing hydrants are solely used for the purpose of flushing, and are not intended for fire use.

It is a good idea for a routine flushing program to call for nightly flushing as part of the routine schedule in order to take advantage of the low demand for water, which would reduce the disruption to customers water service. Cross connections can be an issue during flushing events, therefore if a hose is connected to the hydrant to direct the flow it is a good idea to use an approved backflow prevention device.

In addition to being a great maintenance tool, flushing of dead ends is also required by the Florida Administrative Code. For further information please refer to Chapter 62-555.350, F.A.C.

Sal wants to test your knowledge:
Answers to the questions below will be printed in the next edition of The Water Monitor

Question #1. How long should a 6" diameter service line measuring 100 ft in length be flushed if the water flows at 2.5ft/sec. (250 gpm). Assume 0 friction / head loss.

Question #2. What is the difference between a flush hydrant and a flushing hydrant?

Top: Picture of a flushing hydrant.

Bottom: Picture of a fire hydrant being used for flushing.

"Thousands have lived without love, not one without water."
W.H. Auden

Sal's Triennial Sampling Reminders

2011 is the 1st year of the 9 year sampling period and the 1st year of the 3 year compliance cycle. This is the year Large Community Water Systems conduct their triennial compliance sampling. The PBCHD sent out a letter in February 2011 reminding you to sample for the following contaminants:

- Inorganic Compounds
- Volatile Organic Contaminants
- Synthetic Organic Contaminants
- Radionuclides - Depending on your current waiver.

The above listed contaminants are in addition to your normal monthly, quarterly, annual, and Lead and Copper sampling. These triennial requirements do not apply to consecutive systems that do not treat water. If you have any questions about required sampling, consult your most recent inspection or sanitary survey report or contact your inspector. It is recommended that you collect your samples as early in the year as possible to avoid enforcement for late sample submission. Results must be sent to the Department by the 10th of the month *after* the month in which you receive the results, and all results must be received by January 10, 2012.
If your water system has not yet sampled for 2011 then do so as soon as possible to avoid any potential violations.

"When the well is dry, we know the worth of water." Benjamin Franklin

Lantana DOH Lab Closure

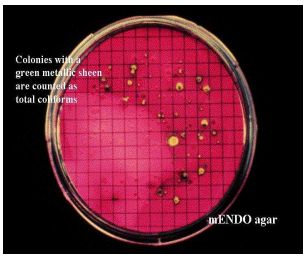
The Florida Department of Health Bureau of Laboratories will be closing the Lantana satellite lab located on the A. G. Holley campus. August 18, 2011 will be the last day the lab will be accepting samples for analysis.

Any water system or client that currently utilizes the services of the Lantana satellite lab should begin looking for another contract lab for their water analysis needs.

When searching for a contract lab it is important to do your due diligence and verify that they are certified by NELAP and the Florida Department of Health to perform that water analysis that you require.

You can find out information about certified labs by visiting the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Website at the following link:

http://www.dep.state.fl.us/labs/cgi-bin/aams/index.asp



Staff Profile - Ewa Kudela-Leczynski

Ewa Kudela-Leczynski is an Environmental Specialist II with the Drinking Water Program. She graduated from Silesian Technical University and Technical University of Cracow with a master's degree in Environmental Engineering specializing in Water and Wastewater Technology. After her graduation she had worked in Poland for the Research Institute of Environmental Protection. She has been with the Palm Beach County Health Department since October 2010; however, her involvement with the Florida Department of Health dates back to 1995. During her 16 year career with the health department she has worked in several programs such as Well Compliance and Permitting, Healthy Beaches and Onsite Sewage and Disposal Systems. Her duties include the following:

- Inspections
- Sanitary Surveys
- Complaint investigations
- Enforcement Referrals

Sal's News Desk

Drinking Water Staffing News

Environmental Specialist II Steven Garcia has transferred into the drinking water section. He will be taking over the duties of Daniel Alterwein. We are very happy to have Mr. Garcia in the drinking water section and expect great things.

Environmental Specialist II Daniel Alterwein has decided to move on to bigger and better things. Daniel spent approximately 2 years in the drinking water program. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

We are very proud to announce that Luanne Moore, Drinking Water Supervisor, recently obtained her Professional Engineer license. Luanne has been with the Drinking Water Section for 5 years and we can think of no one more deserving. Congratulations Luanne!

Hurricane Season Guidelines

Hurricane season is upon us. It is very important for utilities and water systems serving populations of 350 or greater or having 150 or more service connections to have and maintain an updated emergency response plan. The emergency response plan should include the following information:

- A communication chart as described in Chapter 5 of AWWA Manual M19
- Written agreements with other agencies, utilities, or response organizations
- A disaster-specific preparedness/response plan as described in AWWA Manual 19 for each of the following disasters: vandalism or sabotage; a drought; a hurricane; a structure fire; and if applicable, a flood, a forest or brush fire, and a hazardous material release.
- Details about how the water system meets the standby power requirements under 62-555.320(14), F.A.C.
- If applicable, recommendations regarding the amount of drinking water treatment chemicals, including chemicals used for regeneration of ion-exchange resins or for onsite generation of disinfectants, to maintain in inventory at treatment plants.

For more information on the emergency response plan requirements, please see 62-555.350(16), F.A.C.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has recently released their 2011 Hurricane Season Guidelines for community and non-community water systems. Drinking Water Supervisor Luanne Moore will be e-mailing this information out very soon. If you do not receive this information then please contact Luanne Moore or Scott Harrison and we will send it to you.