

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lee County Utilities issues a precautionary boil water notice for all customers

Fort Myers, FL, Sept. 9, 2017 – Lee County Utilities has issued a precautionary boil water notice in advance of Hurricane Irma. Water pressures will be reduced in advance of the storm.

Customers who experience low water pressure or no water at any time during the event, will be under a boil water notice.

While under a boil water notice, water used for consumption can be disinfected by any one of the following methods:

- Bringing the water to a rolling boil and holding it there for one (1) minute, OR
- Using a disinfecting chemical. If you cannot boil water, you should put eight (8) drops of common household bleach (unscented) which is about one-eighth teaspoon, into one (1) gallon of tap water, then shake it, and allow it to stand for 30 minutes before drinking. If the water is cloudy, use sixteen (16) drops, about one-quarter teaspoon of bleach, shake it, and let it stand for 30 minutes. There should be a slight chlorine odor. Use common household bleach that has 5 percent to 8 percent active ingredients. Use food grade containers. OR
- Using water purification tablets or iodine that many sports and camping stores sell, and follow the directions on the package.

You can also buy commercial bottled water for consumption and food preparation as an alternative.

Consumption includes brushing teeth, washing fruits and vegetables, and homemade ice. Tap water may be used for showering, baths, shaving and washing, so long as care is taken not to swallow or allow water in eyes or nose or mouth. Children and disabled individuals should have their bath supervised to ensure water is not ingested. The time spent bathing should be minimized. Though the risk of illness is minimal, individuals who have recent surgical wounds, are immunosuppressed, or have a chronic illness may want to consider using bottled or boiled water (that has cooled) for cleansing until the notice is lifted.

Once the water has been tested and is safe to drink, Lee County Utilities will do a media advisory of when the boil water notice has been lifted.