

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**  
**Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in Florence Water Company, PWS ID# 11-017**

This notice is to inform users of the Florence Water Company that the water system violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. Each month, 18 routine samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria are taken. The standard is that no more than one sample result per month may be positive for the presence of total coliforms. Violations of this standard occurred in June 2012, May 2013, and July 2013 requiring us to inform you of this fact by distributing this public notice.

In June 2012, one routine sample and three repeat samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. Upon a second resample, total coliform bacteria was absent for all samples. In May and July of 2013, one routine sample each month showed the presence of total coliform bacteria at the well located at the Rodeo grounds, south of Florence. In May, a repeat sample taken at that location was absent for total coliform bacteria. In July, the repeat sample tested at the location tested positive and was resampled to determine an absence of total coliform bacteria. While the specific well that originally tested positive was resample, other required sample locations within the distribution system failed to be monitored and therefore the water system cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.

**What should I do?**

- You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

**What does this mean?**

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. *Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria maybe present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.*

Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the system's treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or E. coli, are present.

**What is being done?**

Once an initial routine sample was determined to test positive for the presence of coliform bacteria, repeat samples were immediately taken at the site that tested positive, upstream and downstream of the site, and at the groundwater wells. Additionally, for the June 2012 violation, the chlorine residual levels were checked to ensure that disinfection was throughout the distribution system.

For more information, please contact Timm Wainscott, Utility Superintendent, at (520) 868 – 7619.

This notice is being sent to you by the Florence Water Company.  
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