

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
FOR ALL STAFF, STUDENTS, AND VISITORS AT
GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**

Water Treatment Chemical Overfeed - Corrosion Control Treatment System Temporarily Off-line

On Monday, November 23, 2009 there was a malfunction of our treatment system that caused a high dose of water treatment chemicals (sodium carbonate and liquid phosphate) to be introduced into the water supply. Sodium carbonate and liquid phosphate are approved chemicals commonly used to raise the pH and reduce corrosion of pipes and plumbing fixtures. In response we immediately shut down the chemical feed systems and flushed all taps and water fountains throughout the school on Monday, November 23, 2009 to remove any excessive chemical to correct the immediate problem.

People using the water may have detected a chemical odor and/or may have noticed that the water felt slippery, both which could be attributed to this event. Contact with water with high concentrations of these chemicals may cause a burning sensation and/or skin irritation. We did not receive any reports of any injuries as a result of the chemical overfeed.

We have investigated the cause of the malfunction and are implementing additional safety measures to prevent such an event from reoccurring. The chemical feed systems will remain off-line until the required modifications have been made and we have been given approval from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to activate the treatment system. You will be notified again when the corrosion control system is restored.

The necessary modifications may take several weeks. With the corrosion control treatment system off-line it is possible that the levels of lead and copper in drinking water may be elevated.

What should I do?

While we did not receive any reports of injury, if you believe you experienced some injury from the event or have further questions please contact your physician and the water system operator. The water system operator's number is listed below.

To reduce your potential exposure to lead and copper in drinking water:

- Run the water for 30 seconds or until it becomes cold before using it for drinking or cooking.
- Don't cook with or drink water from the hot water tap.
- Do not boil the water to remove lead or copper.

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

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.

For more information, please contact Deborah Trumbull of Small Water System Services at 978 486 1008.

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