



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

- FOR NORTHERN PORTIONS OF CAMP PENDLETON -

Published: 2/28/2005

This notification is being provided to inform residents and personnel in the northern portion of Camp Pendleton that tap water may exceed regulatory standards for copper in drinking water. The notification applies to the following portions of Camp Pendleton: San Onofre Housing and Mobile Home sites, 51 area (San Onofre Recreation Beach), 52 area (San Onofre), 53 area (Horno), 62 area (San Mateo), 63 area (Christianitos), and 64 area (Talega). This notification does not apply to residents who live in San Mateo Point housing.

Certain naturally occurring characteristics of the water in the Base's northern water system accelerate the corrosion of copper from the plumbing in buildings and residences, resulting in elevated copper levels in drinking water. These levels often exceed national secondary drinking water quality standards established for aesthetics (i.e., taste) as well as the California Department of Health Services action level for copper in drinking water.

Exceeding the action level does not mean that the water is unsafe to drink; rather it represents the point where the Base must notify consumers, evaluate corrosion control alternatives, and implement corrective action subject to approval by the California Department of Health Services. Camp Pendleton is not unique in this situation; many municipalities across the nation experience similar challenges with copper in drinking water.

A study evaluating potential treatment solutions is currently in progress. The Base will coordinate with the California Department of Health Services to select and implement an appropriate treatment technique upon completion of this study.

The following information concerning *potential* health effects is provided to comply with mandatory U.S. EPA public notification guidelines:

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water that contains copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short period of time may experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water that contains copper in excess of the action level over many years may be prone to liver or kidney damage. Additionally, people with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

To reduce the concentration of copper in the water and to make it more palatable, residents are encouraged to allow their water to run for approximately three to five minutes – especially in the morning – to flush out water where copper has had the opportunity to accumulate while sitting stagnant during the evening hours.

Persons interested in more information can review the Base's consumer confidence report, which is published annually and distributed to Base residents. For an additional copy, contact Environmental Security at 725-9741 or Facilities Maintenance at 725-4247. Persons with health-related questions are encouraged to contact their primary care provider or the Naval Hospital Preventive Medicine Department at 725-1233.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. L. Hampton'.

M. L. HAMPTON

Chief of Staff

Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton