

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

This notice is brought to you by Town of Ballston. State Water System ID# NY4505658 Date 10/18/2013

Town of Ballston found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and children 6 years and younger. Please read this notice closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

Representatives from the Department of Health will be present at a Public Forum to answer any questions/concerns you may have regarding this matter on November 14, 2013 at 7pm Town of Ballston Town Hall, 323 Charlton Road

Health Effects of Lead

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

Sources of Lead

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. The primary source of lead exposure for most children is lead-based paint. Other sources of lead exposure include lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in a number of consumer products, including certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the work place (jobs that include house painting, plumbing, renovation, construction, auto repair, welding, electronics repair, jewelry or pottery repair) and exposure from certain hobbies (such as stained glass or pottery, fishing, making or shooting firearms and collecting lead or pewter figurines), as lead can be carried on clothing and shoes. Children's hands or their toys can come into contact with lead in paint, dust and soil. Therefore, washing children's hands and their toys will help reduce the potential for lead exposure from these sources

Plumbing materials, including pipes, new brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 8 percent lead to be labeled as "lead free." However, plumbing fixtures labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified may only have up to 2 percent lead. Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions.

The source of the water is from the Hudson River and is filtered and disinfected by Saratoga County Water Authority. When water is in contact with pipes or plumbing that contains lead for several hours, the lead may enter drinking water. Homes built before 1986 are more likely to have plumbing containing lead. New homes may also have lead; even "lead free" plumbing may contain some lead.

Steps You Can Take To Reduce Your Exposure to Lead in Your Water

- 1. **Run your water to flush out lead.** Run water for 15-30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking, if it hasn't been used for several hours. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes.*
- 2. **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.*
- 3. **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.*
- 4. **Replace your plumbing fixtures if they are found to contain lead.** Plumbing materials, including pipes, new brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 8% lead to be labeled as "lead free." Visit the National Sanitation Foundation Web site at: www.nsf.org/Certified/Lead_content/ to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures.*

5. *Use bottled water or use a water filter. If your home is served by a lead service line, and/or if lead containing plumbing materials is found to be in your home, you may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or www.nsf.org/Certified/Lead_content/ for information on performance standards for water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality. Any measure you take to reduce your exposure to lead should be continued until the lead source(s) has been minimized or eliminated.*

Should you test your water for lead?

If lead-containing plumbing materials are identified in your home, you may want to consider testing your water for lead to determine how much lead is in your drinking water. Call us at (518) 885-7660 Ext 24 to find out how to get your water tested for lead. The Town of Ballston uses CNA Environmental. You can contact them at 27 Kent St, Ballston Spa, NY (518) 884-0800.

Should your child be tested for lead?

New York Public Health Law requires primary health care providers to screen each child for blood lead levels at one and two years of age as part of routine well-child care. In addition, at each routine well-child visit, or at least annually if a child has not had routine well-child visits, primary health care providers assess each child who is at least six-months of age, but under six years of age, for high lead exposure. Each child found to be at risk for high lead exposure is screened or referred for lead screening. If your child has not had routine well-child visits (since the age of one year) and you are concerned about lead exposure to your child, contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead.

What Happened?

As required by the Department of Health the Town of Ballston in July of 2013 collected water samples from 20 water customers throughout the town and submitted them to CNA Environmental to test the levels of lead & copper. Based on a review of Lead & Copper data submitted to and reviewed by the NYS DOH it was determined that the 90th percentile of 20 sample collected exceed the Action Level of 15 ug/l. The 90th percentile of 20 samples analyzed within the Burnt Hills- Ballston Lake Water District was 34 ug/l.

What is being done?

As of October 8, 2013 the Town of Ballston suspended use of water supplied by Saratoga County Water Authority. The Town of Glenville is the current sole provider of water to the Town of Ballston. This will remain in effect until more samples are taken and test results do not exceed the Action level of 15 ug/l.

As a result of elevated lead levels, the Saratoga County Water Authority will begin feeding a poly/orthophosphate at the end of October. Phosphate provides a coating on the pipes that inhibits leaching of lead from plumbing components. Follow-up sampling will be performed to demonstrate the effectiveness of the treatment.

The Saratoga County Water Authority (SCWA) has modified several chemical treatment processes to minimize disinfection byproduct formation. It has discontinued prechlorination, initiated sodium permanganate addition prior to filtration and optimized coagulation at the filtration plant. The SCWA has also initiated a seasonal monthly flushing program during the warmer months to minimize detention time. These treatment and operational modifications have had modest impacts on disinfection byproduct levels. Looking forward, the SCWA will continue to pursue storage tank aeration as a method to decrease trihalomethanes and will discontinue filter backwash recycling in 2014 to reduce the amount of organic materials in the untreated water. The SCWA is also looking at advanced long term solutions in the event the process control changes that are currently being implemented do not sufficiently decrease disinfection byproduct level.

For More Information

Call us at (518) 885-7660 Ext 24 or visit our Web site at townofballstonny.org. For more information on lead in drinking water, contact your local health department, at (518) 793-3893 or the New York State Department of Health directly by calling the toll-free number (within New York State) 1-800-458-1158, extension 27650, or out of state at (518) 402-7650, or by email at bpwsp@health.state.ny.us. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/lead, or call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD.

**Public Notification for Total Trihalomethane and Haloacetic Acid Exceedance
Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Water District
(April 1, 2013 – September 30, 2013)**

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of contaminants in drinking water. Each calendar quarter samples are collected and analyzed to determine the levels of Haloacetic Acids and Trihalomethanes. Haloacetic Acids and Trihalomethanes are a byproduct of drinking water disinfection, which is needed to kill harmful organisms. An average of four quarterly samples is used to determine compliance with the New York State public drinking water standard.

In samples collected between April 1, 2013 and June 30, 2013 the average level of Trihalomethanes was 101.3 ug/L. Haloacetic Acid levels in samples collected during the same monitoring period were 66.5 ug/l. Both levels exceed the New York State public drinking water standards of 80 ug/L for Total Trihalomethanes and 60 ug/l for Haloacetic Acids. In samples collected between July 1, 2013 and September 30, 2013 the average level of Trihalomethanes was 113.1 ug/L. Haloacetic Acid levels in samples collected during the same monitoring period are at the MCL, but do not exceed the MCL. Exceedance of the standards is not an immediate health hazard, but indicates that actions should be taken by the supplier of water to reduce contaminant levels and lower the potential for long term exposure.

You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. An analysis of the data for Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake showed that the estimated exposure during the time period when levels were elevated is at least 600 times lower than the lowest exposure level known to cause adverse health effects in animals. Some people may wish to take additional practical measures which will reduce their exposure. Individuals could use bottled water for drinking and cooking purposes. If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Water District purchases treated drinking water from the Saratoga County Water Authority. Disinfection byproduct formation is dependent on the levels of natural organic matter in the water, water age in the distribution system, pH, temperature, and the free chlorine residual, as well as other factors.

New York State and federal drinking water regulations require that standard health effects information be distributed whenever a drinking water standard is violated. This information is presented below. If you have further questions or concerns you can contact the New York State Department of Health Glens Falls District Office at 518-793-3893. Additional information is available on the Environmental Protection Agency website at <http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/icr/dbp.html>.

Health Notification Language

Trihalomethanes

Trihalomethanes are a group of chemicals that includes chloroform, bromoform, bromodichloromethane, and chlorodibromomethane. Trihalomethanes are formed in drinking water during treatment by chlorine, which is the most commonly used disinfectant in New York State. Chlorine reacts with certain acids that are in naturally-occurring organic material (e.g., decomposing vegetation such as tree leaves, algae or other aquatic plants) in surface water sources such as rivers and lakes. The amount of trihalomethanes formed in drinking water during disinfection can change from day to day, depending on the temperature, the amount of organic material in the water, the amount of chlorine added, and a variety of other factors. Drinking water is disinfected by public water suppliers to kill bacteria and viruses that could cause serious illnesses. For this reason, disinfection of drinking water by chlorination is beneficial to public health.

Some studies suggest that people who drink chlorinated water (which contains trihalomethanes) or water containing elevated levels of trihalomethanes for long periods of time may have an increased risk for certain health effects. For example, some studies of people who drank chlorinated drinking water for 20 to 30 years show that long term exposure to disinfection by-products (including trihalomethanes) is associated with an increased risk for certain types of cancer. A few studies of women who drank water containing trihalomethanes during pregnancy show an association between exposure to elevated levels of trihalomethanes and small increased risks for low birth weights, miscarriages and birth defects. However, in each of the studies, how long and how frequently people actually drank the water, as well as how much trihalomethanes the water contained is not known for certain. Therefore, we do not know for sure if the observed increases in risk for cancer and other health effects are due to trihalomethanes or some other factor. The individual trihalomethanes chloroform, bromodichloromethane and dibromochloromethane cause cancer in laboratory animals exposed to high levels over their lifetimes. Chloroform, bromodichloromethane and dibromochloromethane are also known to cause effects in laboratory animals after high levels of exposure, primarily on the liver, kidney, nervous system and on their ability to bear healthy offspring. Chemicals that cause adverse health effects in laboratory animals after high levels of exposure may pose a risk for adverse health effects in humans exposed to lower levels over long periods of time.

Haloacetic Acids

Haloacetic acids are a group of chemicals that includes mono-, di- and trichloroacetic acids and mono- and dibromoacetic acids. Haloacetic acids are formed in drinking water during treatment by chlorine, which reacts with certain acids that are in naturally-occurring organic material (e.g., decomposing vegetation such as tree leaves, algae or other aquatic plants) in surface water sources such as rivers and lakes. The amount of haloacetic acids in drinking water can change from day to day, depending on the temperature, the amount of organic material in the water, the amount of chlorine added, and a variety of other factors. Drinking water is disinfected by public water suppliers to

kill bacteria and viruses that could cause serious illnesses. For this reason, disinfection of drinking water by chlorination is beneficial to public health. Chlorine is the most commonly used disinfectant in New York State.

Some studies of people who drank chlorinated drinking water for 20 to 30 years show that long term exposure to disinfection by-products (possibly including haloacetic acids) is associated with an increased risk for certain types of cancer. However, how long and how frequently people actually drank the water as well as how much haloacetic acids the water contained is not known for certain. Therefore, we do not know for sure if the observed increased risk for cancer is due to haloacetic acids, other disinfection by-products, or some other factor. The individual haloacetic acids dichloroacetic acid and trichloroacetic acid cause cancer in laboratory animals exposed to high levels over their lifetimes. Dichloroacetic acid and trichloroacetic acid are also known to cause other effects in laboratory animals after high levels of exposure, primarily on the liver, kidney and nervous system and on their ability to bear healthy offspring. Chemicals that cause effects in animals after high levels of exposure may pose a risk to humans exposed to similar or lower levels over long periods of time.