


PUBLIC NOTICE (PN)



**Presenter: Tiffany Mifflin
EPA Drinking Water Unit**

PN Ensures Consumers Know if there is a Problem with the Drinking Water

Notifies customers if:

- The water does not meet drinking water standards
 - The water system failed to test its water
 - Immediately alerts consumers if there is a serious problem with their drinking water that may pose a risk to their health
- 

PUBLIC NOTICE

Tier 1 Acute Issues

Tier 2 TCR MCLs & GWR
Failure to Correct
Significant Deficiencies

Tier 3 Monitoring Violations



TIER 1 VIOLATIONS- Acute

- RTCR**- Any combination of a routine positive and repeat positive where one of the positives is an EC+ OR if there is an EC+ routine and the system fails to collect repeat samples
- GWR**- Any EC+ source sample
- Nitrates**- MCL violations

Tier 1 notices- typically boil orders or do not drink

Other serious situations (but aren't limited to):

- Loss of pressure within the distribution
- SWTR**- Treated surface water production for longer than 4 hours at 5.0 NTU

TIER 1 VIOLATIONS-Acute

Give Notice:


- ▶ **Public - within 24 hours**
- ▶ **EPA - within 24 hours**

Method:

- ▶ **Radio/TV (typically for communities)**
- ▶ **Hand or direct delivery**
- ▶ **Mail**
- ▶ **Posting in conspicuous places**



TIER 1 VIOLATIONS-Acute

- ▶ Be sure to get the word out ASAP. Tier 1 notices are serious!
 - ▶ Posting shall continue for as long as the problem persists.
 - ▶ Do not remove a notice until you get the ok from EPA.
 - ▶ Depending on the problem, you may need to provide alternate means of water. Consider planning ahead– what would you do?
- 

TIER 2 VIOLATIONS

RTCR- Failure to conduct your:

a) Level 1 Assessment

b) Level 2 Assessment

c) Seasonal Startup

(if your system is not open year round)

GWR- Failure to correct significant deficiencies



TIER 2 VIOLATIONS

Give Notice:

- **Public - within 30 days. Repeat every 3 months if problem persists.**
- **EPA - within 24 hours**

Method:

- **Hand or direct delivery**
- **Mail**
- **Posting in conspicuous places**



TIER 3 VIOLATIONS:

All Monitoring Violations (i.e.-failure to monitor)

Give Notice:


- Public - Within one year
- EPA – Within one year

Method:

- Hand or direct delivery
- Mail
- Posting in conspicuous places




TIER 2 & 3 VIOLATIONS

- ▶ Public notices will need to be posted for at least one week.
 - ▶ Be sure to do what works best for your system in terms of posting. You want the most visible means necessary.
- 

PUBLIC NOTICE

Required Language


Content:

- 1. Type of Violation**
 - 2. What the consumer should do**
 - 3. What happened**
 - 4. What is being done**
 - 5. Give a contact consumers may call**
- 

PUBLIC NOTICE

A copy of the necessary public notice should always be included with any violation letter.

If you need a copy sooner or in an emergency situation, consult our Region 8 website below for templates: <http://www2.epa.gov/region8-waterops>



Questions?

- ▶ We pretty much have forms for all issues.
- ▶ You should only need to fill in the blanks to describe your particular situation in detail.

