

# The Water Monitor



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*The Palm Beach County Health Department will periodically issue this newsletter with reminders for operators and guidance on common compliance issues. If there is a topic you would like to see covered in a future issue, please let us know.*

## Boil Water Notices

- When boil water notices are distributed, the end time should not be specified—you do not know for certain when the notice will end until bacteriological sampling is complete. If sample results are unacceptable and the notice extends longer than expected, people may not get the message about the change. Notices should instruct people to continue boiling water until notified.
- Boil water notices may not be lifted until acceptable bacteriological results are received by the Health Department. Fax results immediately upon receipt, and do not re-send them at the end of the month.



## Drinking Water Forms:

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/drinkingwater/forms.htm>



## Emergency Contacts

State Warning Point: **1-800-320-0519**

Call to report any security incident, including graffiti. Graffiti may be a precursor to more serious security breaches.

A.G. Holley Hospital: **(561) 582-5666**

Call this number to report security incidents or any other occurrence that requires immediate reporting to the Health Department. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for use when the Health Department offices are closed.

## Tips for Timely Data Reporting

- ◇ Make sure samples are collected early enough that deadlines will be met. “It’s at the lab” is not a reason to be late. Don’t wait until the last minute!
- ◇ Sample results are due by the 10th of the month following the end of the monitoring period; for example, annual samples for 2007 will be due no later than January 10, 2008.
- ◇ If sample results are obtained earlier in the monitoring period, they are due by the 10th of the month following the month in which they were received. For example, annual sample results received by the owner in September would be due by October 10th.
- ◇ **System owners are ultimately responsible for timely data collection and submittal, even when contract operators and laboratories are employed.**

## Reporting Significant Events on the MOR

The last column on page 2 of the MOR is titled “*Emergency or Abnormal Operating Conditions; Repair or Maintenance Work that Involves Taking Water System Components Out of Operation*”.

As you fill out the MOR each month, go back through your logbook and think carefully about events fitting this description! Failure to report these conditions or activities is a potential reporting violation.

Some examples of reportable conditions:

- ⇒ Changing filter media
- ⇒ Taking a basin or tank off- or on-line
- ⇒ Loss of power / use of emergency generators
- ⇒ Taking a well off- or on-line
- ⇒ Switch between chloramines / free chlorine
- ⇒ Temporary loss of treatment chemical feed
- ⇒ Any significant change in plant operation