



PRICE'S FORK DRINKING WATER CHANGES TO NEW TREATMENT PROCESS: SPECIAL NOTICE FOR DIALYSIS PATIENTS & TROPICAL FISH OWNERS

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Montgomery County, Virginia – Beginning Wednesday, December 23, 2009, the approximately 650 water customers served by the Montgomery County Public Service Authority's Price's Fork Water System will have their drinking water treated by a new disinfectant process, with important implications for kidney dialysis patients and tropical fish owners.

The areas affected by this change include residences and businesses along the following roads, and their intersecting streets:

- Price's Fork Road (outside the town limits of Blacksburg)
- Hightop Road
- Merrimac Road

The change is temporary, and due to operational issues with the water distribution system. Normal operations will be restored as soon as possible. During this transition, customers may notice a strong odor of chlorine or chemicals. This is normal, and not harmful.

The traditional water source for the Price's Fork system comes from the Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RAAP), and is treated with chlorine. The new water source for the system is the Blacksburg-Christiansburg-VPI Water Authority (BCVPI WA), via the Town of Blacksburg. The BCVPI WA water is treated by chloramination and also includes fluoride.

With chloramination, ammonia is added to the chlorinated water. Chloraminated water is perfectly safe for drinking, cooking, bathing, and all daily uses. But chloramination can affect the way people treat disinfected water. ***Specifically, two groups of people will need to take special care with chloraminated water: kidney dialysis patients and owners of fish, other aquatic animals, and reptiles*** (including owners of lobster tanks at grocery stores and restaurants).

Although drinking the chloraminated water is safe for kidney dialysis patients, ***persons who use dialysis machines at home should contact their physician or their local kidney dialysis center*** for guidance on possible modifications to dialysis machines or procedures.

Owners of fish and aquatic animals should contact their supplier or a local pet store for supplies and information. Dechlorinating water for use in aquariums is a somewhat different procedure than dechlorinating water. Products for dechlorinating water are commercially available.

In June 2005, the Blacksburg-Christiansburg-VPI Water Authority successfully switched over to chloramination. Hundreds of other water suppliers, including the City of Richmond, and most of the Tidewater area of Virginia have successfully switched to chloramination.

Commonly asked questions and additional information about chloramination are available online at www.h2o4u.org.

If you have any questions, please call the Montgomery County Public Service Authority at (540)381-1997

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