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**Texas Department of State  
Health Services**

## **Guidance for Retail Food Establishments under a Boil Water Order**

Public water systems issue Boil Water Orders to notify their users when the drinking water is not safe to consume. A boil water order is issued when there is a coliform bacteria violation, when the water turbidity is over 5.0 NTU, when the water pressure is less than 20 PSI, or when there is a waterborne disease outbreak.

The retail food establishment manager is responsible for ensuring compliance with food safety requirements when under a Boil Water Order.

Following are temporary measures that can be taken under a Boil Water Order:

### **Drinking Water**

- Use commercially bottled water; or
- Use water that has been kept at a rolling boil for at least 1 minute, or
- Use water brought in from an approved public water supply in a covered, sanitized container.

### **Beverages Made with Water**

- Do not use post-mix carbonated beverage machines, auto-fill coffee makers, instant hot water heaters, ice machines, etc. using auto-fill methods

### **Ice Making**

- Discard existing ice and do not make more ice.
- Use commercially manufactured ice.

### **Cooking**

- Use commercially bottled water, or
- Use water that has been kept at a rolling boil for at least one minute; or
- Use water brought in from an approved public water supply in a covered, sanitized container.

### **Handwashing**

- Use commercially bottled water, or
- Use water that has been kept at a rolling boil for at least 1 minute; or
- Use water brought in from an approved public water supply in a covered, sanitized container.
- Handwashing procedures must follow the Texas Food Establishment Rules. The water temperature for handwashing must be a minimum of 100° Fahrenheit.

# CITY OF SAN MARCOS

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## EMERGENCY WATER SERVICE OUTAGE NOTIFICATION

Due to conditions which occurred recently it was necessary to turn water service off in the following areas to make an emergency repair. 3830-4300 S IH 35 (Bill Miller to the Honda Dealership), 690 Centerpoint, 4211 Gregson's Bend, and 625 Commercial Loop on the West side of IH 35. On the East side, 3939-4331 S IH 35 (both sides of the outlets), and 1020 Centerpoint were affected. As a precaution, once water service is restored you may want to boil your water prior to consumption. This is a precautionary measure and does not necessarily mean that your water is contaminated, only that there is a possibility of contamination due to lack of pressure in the main lines for an extended period.

To ensure destruction of all harmful bacteria and other microbes, water for drinking, cooking and ice making can be boiled and cooled prior to consumption. The water should be brought to a vigorous rolling boil and then boiled for two minutes. In lieu of boiling, you may wish to purchase bottled water or obtain water from some other suitable source.

Satisfactory water quality test results should be received by **Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at Noon**. At that time, no further precautionary measures are needed.

If you have questions regarding this matter, you may contact the Water/Wastewater Utilities office at 512-393-8010.