

Boil-water advisory

ACTION CHECKLIST

Use bottled water or bring clear tap water to a rolling boil for 1 minute, then cool it; above 6,500 feet, boil for 3 minutes. Use approved water for drinking, cooking and brushing teeth. Follow the exact local notice. Boiling does not remove chemical contamination.

[] Confirm the notice

Check that it is a boil-water advisory, rather than do-not-drink or do-not-use.

[] Boil and cool

Use the local authority instructions; allow water to cool safely before use.

[] Prevent accidental use

Avoid connected refrigerator water and ice; use safe water for food, formula and pets.

[] Follow the all-clear

Resume normal use only after official clearance and any flushing instructions.

WATCH FOR

A household pitcher filter does not replace boiling during this advisory.

IF HELP IS UNAVAILABLE

If fuel or electricity is unavailable, use sealed drinking water first. A treatment tablet is an option only for microbial risk and only when its label covers the conditions. If you cannot establish whether chemicals are involved, change the water source rather than experimenting.

Updated 2026-10-02 | Civilian educational guidance. Seek qualified help when reachable and safe; do not delay immediate protective action.

Full guide: <https://ospreyzero.com/emergencies/boil-water-advisory/>

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