



News Release

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Skagit County: Cape Horn community residents urged to boil tap water

OLYMPIA — Cape Horn community residents are advised to boil their tap water because tests showed potentially harmful *E. coli* bacteria in the water. The Cape Horn Maintenance Company, which provides water service to the area, issued an advisory to residents today.

The advisory affects about 700 people in the residential and recreational community, which is on the Skagit River a few miles southwest of Concrete.

The bacteria were detected during a routine water quality monitoring test. The water system operator is collecting more water quality samples today. He'll add chlorine disinfectant to the water system and inspect it to try to find the source of contamination.

To kill the bacteria, the state Department of Health recommends that residents heat tap water to a brisk boil for one minute and allow the water to cool before using. This applies to any tap water that will be used for drinking, brushing teeth, preparing food, making ice, or washing dishes.

The state health department is working closely with the water system manager and will inspect the system if follow-up water quality test results confirm the contamination.

“We want our customers to know their safety comes first,” said Richard Moore, secretary of the Cape Horn Maintenance Co. “We’ll work through this as quickly as we can.”

The advisory will remain in effect until the state health department and the Cape Horn Maintenance Company are satisfied that the water is safe to drink.

Cape Horn residents who have questions about their water can call 360-466-4443.

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