

Engineering, Design, and Water Treatment

Recommended Actions Following Fluoride Overfeed

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In the event of an overfeed, immediately determine the fluoride level, and then take action based on the table below.

FLUORIDE
LEVEL
(mg/L)

ACTIONS RECOMMENDED

<2.0

- 1. Leave the fluoridation system on.
- 2. Determine what has malfunctioned and correct or repair it.

2.1 to 4.0

- 1. Leave the fluoridation system on.
- 2. Notify your supervisor, and report the incident to your DOH regional drinking water office (or afterhours hotline number¹).
- 3. Determine what has malfunctioned and immediately correct or repair.
- 4. Measure and record fluoride content of water samples at several points in the distribution system to identify extent of excessive level.
- 5. Tier 3 public notification of the overfeed occurrence is required as soon as practical but no later than 12 months after the exceedance (such as in an annual consumer confidence report).

4.1 to 30

- 1. Immediately turn off the fluoridation feed system, but leave on-line monitors ON.
- 2. Promptly notify your supervisor, and report the incident to your DOH regional drinking water office (or after-hours hotline number¹).
- 3. Measure and record fluoride content of water samples at several points in the distribution system to identify extent of excessive level. Save 125 mL portion of each sample for future reference.
- 4. Determine duration of exceedance, and whether excessive fluoride content could have reached customers.
- 5. Determine what has malfunctioned and repair it. Once levels are reduced to less than 4.0 mg/L, and with supervisor's and state's permission, restart the fluoridation system.
- 6. If initial and distribution system confirmation samples are 4.1 mg/L or greater, Tier 2 public notice of the exceedance is required (as soon as practical, but no later than 30 days after the exceedance).

>30

- 1. Immediately turn off the fluoridation feed system, but leave on-line monitors ON.
- 2. Promptly notify your supervisor, and report the incident to your DOH regional drinking water office (or after-hours hotline number¹).
- 3. Measure and record fluoride content of water samples at several points in the distribution system to identify extent of excessive level. Save 125 mL portion of each sample for future reference.
- 4. Determine duration of exceedance, and whether excessive fluoride content could have reached customers.
- 5. If initial and distribution system confirmation samples are 30.1 mg/L or greater Tier 1 public notification is required. Issue "Do Not Drink" warning.
- 6. Open hydrants to flush mains. "Do Not Drink" public notice can be rescinded once levels are reduced to less than 4.0 mg/L. Record these measurements.
- 7. Determine what has malfunctioned and repair it. With supervisor's and state's permission, restart the fluoridation system.

¹DOH After-Hours Emergency Line (for Purveyors/Water Systems only) **1-877-481-4901.**



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