

Naval Support Activity (NSA) Naples takes the safety and quality of water provided to its service members in Gaeta seriously. Service members stationed in and around Gaeta have been under a bottled water advisory for over a year due to sporadically elevated levels of turbidity in the municipally supplied drinking water. In general terms, turbidity is the amount of cloudiness in the water. Turbidity on its own has no health effects.

It should be noted that when the locally supplied potable water exceeds the recommended levels NSA Naples will notify service members through Facebook, e-mail, and NSA Naples' webpages.

In order to educate our personnel in the Gaeta area about additional steps they can take to ensure safe use of water identified as having elevated turbidity levels, the following suggestions are provided.

WHAT IS TURBIDITY?

Turbidity is the amount of cloudiness in the water caused by a large numbers of particles that are generally invisible to the naked eye.

HEALTH EFFECTS OF TURBIDITY

Turbidity on its own does not cause illness or disease. However, turbidity can interfere with routine disinfection allowing the possibility of microbial growth. These microbes may include bacteria, viruses, and parasites. If you experience persistent or otherwise unexplained gastro-intestinal or diarrheal illness while drinking tap water under a bottled water advisory, you may want to seek medical advice.

TURBIDITY IN DRINKING WATER

The locally supplied potable water is routinely measured for turbidity at Old Mill Inn. Sampling data indicate that turbidity levels routinely exceed EPA's maximum contaminant level of 1.0 nephelometric turbidity units (NTU).

HOW TURBIDITY ENTERS OUR WATER

The town of Gaeta's water system receives its water from a water supplier, Acqua Latina. Acqua Latina is a consortium that provides integrated water service to the territory within the Lazio region. The Acqua Latina water comes from two sources: the Capodacqua wells and the Mazzoccolo springs. Turbidity occurs naturally within these water sources.

WHAT IS ALREADY BEING DONE

NSA Naples routinely monitors the drinking water at Old Mill Inn and other sites on base, as well as relays water safety information from the City of Gaeta to our service members. Additional measures already in place for our service members in the community include:

1. Requiring landlords to provide bottled water for drinking and personal use (4 liters per day per person) as a provision in all leases.
2. Requiring periodic maintenance and sanitation of drinking water storage tanks as a provision in all leases.
3. Provides notices for drinking water advisories.
4. Provides laundry machines capable of sanitizing water temperatures (greater than 60 degrees C) during the "hot" water cycle

STEPS TO MITIGATE HEALTH RISK ASSOCIATED WITH ELEVATED TURBIDITY IN DRINKING WATER

1. **FLUSH YOUR SYSTEM FOLLOWING A BOIL WATER ADVISORY.** Let the water run from the tap before using it for bathing. Flushing the tap means running the cold water faucet for

about 15-30 seconds. Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of the plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it. Flushing tap water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to protect your health.

2. **USE ONLY BOTTLED WATER FOR COOKING, DRINKING AND ORAL HYGIENE.** Do not cook with or drink water from the tap. Bottled water from approved sources should only be used for cooking and drinking.
3. If you or your family has special health needs, seek medical advice.
4. Additional mitigation measures that should be taken:
 - Ensure the water provided by your landlord is from an approved source (list is available from the Housing Office.).
 - Ensure your landlord is properly cleaning / sanitizing your drinking water storage tanks every 6 months, per the directions provided by the Housing Office.
 - Review the annual "Consumer Confidence Report" and in the event of a boil water notice follow Public Affairs Office press release guidance. (see Resources and Information section below).
 - Consider choosing a residence that has a bath tub for use in implementing "boil water notice" procedures: (http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/documents/PN_Turbidity_BoilAdvisory.pdf).
 - Seek medical advice about water use if you or your family member has a severely compromised immune system or chronic open sores.
 - If possible negotiate for automatic dishwashers with a sanitizing rinse cycle" that achieves a temperature of at least 167 degrees F (75 degrees C). Alternatively, rinse dishes in water that achieves this temperature.

RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
www.epa.gov

U.S. EPA - Safe Drinking Water Act
<http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/index.cfm>

U.S. EPA - Basic Information about Regulated Drinking Water Contaminants
<http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/basicinformation/pathogens.cfm>

NSA Naples
<http://www.cninc.navy.mil/naples>

NSA Naples - Consumer Confidence Report
http://www.cninc.navy.mil/regions/cnreurafswa/installations/nsa_naples/om/environmental_support/drinking_water_consumer_confidence_report.html

NSA Naples - Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/NSANaples>

NSA Naples - Public Affairs Notes
<http://issuu.com/nsanaplespao>

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions or concerns, please call:
NSA Naples Public Works Department
Environmental at DSN 626-6923, or commercial +39-081-568-6644 and USNH Naples Preventive Medicine Department at DSN 629-6299, or commercial +39-081-811-6299 for information about your facility's water supply.

Last update: March 2015



Turbidity

