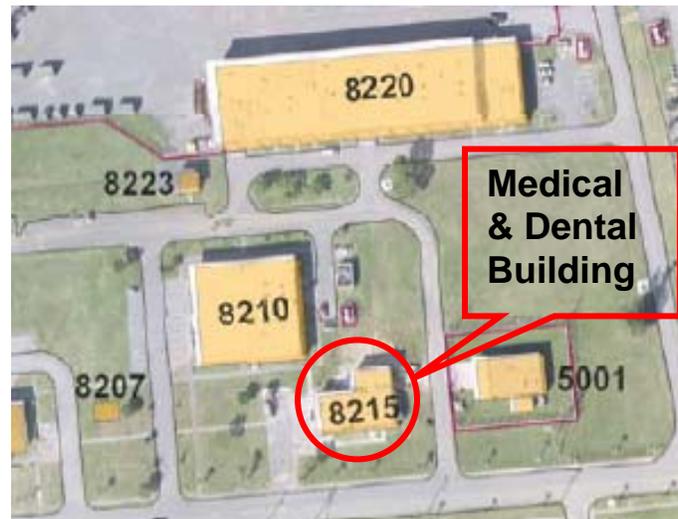


# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

## Lead In The Drinking Water, BLDG 8215

This is not an emergency. Drinking water provided to the Medical & Dental Building, Bldg. 8215, on Camp Shields recently exceeded drinking water standards for lead at the Medical Laboratory Sink. As a result the water was declared not fit for human consumption. Environmental Health professionals have assessed that there is no indication of any significant health risk. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, the current status, the health affects of lead exposure, and what we are doing to correct this deficiency.



### What happened?

Fleet Activities Okinawa samples and tests water at selected consumer taps to safeguard public health. Certified water test results received on 22 OCT 2013 showed lead levels of 0.052 mg/L. This is above the limit, or “action level”, of 0.015 mg/L, so this issue is being corrected.

### What is the status?

- This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Typically, lead enters water supplies by leaching from lead or brass pipes and plumbing components. New lead pipes and plumbing components containing lead are no longer allowed for this reason; however, many older buildings may contain lead pipes. Your water is more likely to contain high lead levels if water pipes in or leading to your home or office are made of lead or contain lead solder.
- The building occupants were notified and all faucets and water fountains in the building were initially posted with signs.
- After further testing it was confirmed that only the initial test location exceeded the lead action level. An isolation valve was installed to secure water to that room and the signs were removed from the rest of the building.

- The drinking water in Bldg. 8215 was last tested in 2002. At that time the water did not meet the drinking water standards for lead. The fixtures at the sampling point were subsequently replaced.

### **What is being done?**

The problem will be corrected. The affected plumbing will be replaced with new PVC piping, which will resolve the lead issue. The new PVC piping should be installed by Jan. 31, 2014.

For utilities or project information, please contact Mr. Rogers at 634-5248 or [Harrison.rogers@fe.navy.mil](mailto:Harrison.rogers@fe.navy.mil). For drinking water quality information contact Ms. Wakida (Drinking Water Program Manager) at 622-1378 or [tomoe.wakida.JA@fe.navy.mil](mailto:tomoe.wakida.JA@fe.navy.mil).

Please share this information with those who may have consumed this water, especially those who may not have directly received this notice (for example, those NMCB personnel who have been deployed to Camp Shields in the past). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or by distributing copies by hand or mail.

### **What are the potential health effects?**

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates lead in drinking water to protect public health. Lead may cause health problems if present in public or private water supplies in amounts greater than the drinking water standard set by the EPA. The most common source of lead in the drinking water is through contact with corroding plumbing.
- According to the EPA, infants and young children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical and mental development. Your doctor can perform a simple blood test to determine your child's blood-lead level.
- Because lead can accumulate in the body, adults who drink water in excess of the action level over **many years** could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

If you have specific health questions or concerns related to possible lead exposure, it is recommended that you contact your Primary Care Manager. For general health questions, please contact the Preventive Medicine Department at the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa at 643-7626/7615.

### **What actions can I take to further reduce the potential for lead exposure?**

- No action is required on your part. The water to the affected plumbing and fixtures was turned off to ensure that the water is not consumed.
- Regardless of where you are (home, work, vacation), here are some steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead:
  - ✓ Run your water for 30 seconds or until it becomes cool before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes any standing lead from the pipes.

- ✓ Don't cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water.
- ✓ **Do not boil your water to remove lead.** Excessive boiling water makes the lead more concentrated – the lead remains when the water evaporates.

**Where can I find additional information on lead?**

**EPA website:** <http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead/>

**Notification requirements**

Upon receipt of certified laboratory results notification from the person operating a public water system, shall provide "Public Notification" within 30 days per CNICINST 5090.1:

- Building Occupants, Building Managers, Consumers.
- Installation Water Quality Board (IWQB) members; CFA Okinawa (CFAO) Commanding Officer, CFAO Chief Staff Officer, Medical (Preventive Medicine Director), Public Works Officer, Production Director, UEM Branch Head, Facility Maintenance Director, and Environmental Director
- Regional Water Quality Board.

This notice is being sent to you by CFAO Website, Plan of the Week, and bulletin boards.

IWQB Water System Notice ID#: DW201302.

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