

Chimney Hill Municipal Utility District
P.O. Box 2148
Spring, Texas

Chloramines Notice

January 6, 2004

Dear Customer,

Recently, the City of Houston converted its drinking water supply from groundwater to surface water. This change is the result of subsidence. Subsidence, partially caused by groundwater pumping, has caused areas of Houston to sink more than 10 feet. The City of Houston is reducing its dependence on groundwater to control subsidence. The State of Texas requires cities to switch to surface water by the year 2050.

Chimney Hill purchases approximately 80 % of its drinking water supply annually from the City of Houston. A District owned and operated well supplies the remainder of the drinking water. The change from groundwater to surface water results in a change in the type of disinfectant used to treat the water. Groundwater is typically disinfected using chlorine. Surface water is disinfected using chloramines. Both chemicals provide the needed disinfection. However, chloramines are used in surface water to reduce the level of disinfection by-products (DBPs) in the system, while providing protection from waterborne disease.

However, the change to chloramines can cause concerns for persons using dialysis machines. A condition known as hemolytic anemia can occur if the disinfectant is not completely removed from the water that is used for the dialysate. Consequently, some mechanism (such as a charcoal filter) must be used to remove the chloramines. Medical facilities should also determine if additional precautions are required for other medical equipment

In addition, chloraminated water may be toxic to fish. If you have a fish tank, please make sure that the chemicals or filters, that you are using, are designed for use in water that has been treated with chloramines. You may also need to change the type of filter that you use for the fish tank.

Should you have any question concerning chloramines, you may contact Water District Management (WDM) at 281-376-8802.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors
Chimney Hill MUD