

News Release

February 6, 2018

Magna Water District Did Not Fluoridate Customer Water for 8-month Period

Problem has been corrected and fluoride levels now meet Salt Lake County drinking water standards

(SALT LAKE COUNTY)— Due to equipment malfunction, from May 2017 to January 2018 Magna Water District did not provide its water customers with the fluoride supplementation required by *Salt Lake County Health Regulation #33: Fluoridation in Public Water Supplies*. This situation's only impact to water customers is that they did not receive the benefits of fluoridation for this 8-month period.

On May 30, 2017, Salt Lake County Health Department received notice from Magna Water District that their fluoridation equipment was not functioning. The health department advised Magna Water District that fluoridation was required by Health Regulation #33, and the water district soon began the expense approval process to purchase new fluoridation equipment.

Under *Health Regulation #33: Fluoridation in Public Water Supplies*, water customers must be notified if fluoridation of their water will not occur for a period of 6 months or longer; as Magna Water District had begun the budget approval process for new equipment, both Magna Water District and Salt Lake County Health Department expected new equipment to be purchased and the lack of fluoridation to be resolved within the 6-month period, so neither organization notified customers of the lack of fluoridation.

Due to the unexpected passing of a key Magna Water District employee, the process to purchase new fluoridation equipment was interrupted, and it took longer than anticipated to secure the necessary equipment. On January 29, 2018, Magna Water again began fluoridating their water as required by Health Regulation #33. Because the time without fluoridation (8 months) exceeds 6 months, Magna Water District must notify its customers of the lack of fluoridation.

Below are questions water customers may have about this situation:

Why did Magna Water District stop fluoridating in May 2017?

Magna Water District's fluoridation equipment stopped functioning because it was near the end of its useful life. Without functional fluoridation equipment, Magna Water District couldn't supplement its water supply with fluoride.

How did not having fluoride in the water affect me and my family?

Not having fluoride from May 2017 to January 2018 means water users did not have the benefits of fluoride for that time. Properly fluoridated water helps prevent tooth decay and improves dental health. Because Magna water users had the benefits of fluoride before May 2017 and have it again now, it's unlikely they will experience any negative oral health effects because of the 8-month period without fluoride.

Do I need to do anything about the lack of fluoride for that time?

No, Magna Water District customers again have the benefits of fluoridated water and should continue using water as they normally would. (But please remember to conserve water whenever possible!)

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Why didn't Magna Water District or Salt Lake County Health Department notify me in May that my water was not being fluoridated?

Both Magna Water District and Salt Lake County Health Department expected new fluoridation equipment to be purchased quickly enough that residual fluoride in the water system would continue to provide the benefits of fluoridation to customers until new equipment could be installed. Unfortunately, due to the unexpected death of a key Magna Water employee, the process to replace the fluoridation equipment was interrupted and did not occur as quickly as anticipated.

What happens next?

Magna Water District will continue to sample their water to ensure fluoride levels meet the standard set in Health Regulation #33, and the Salt Lake County Health Department and Utah Division of Drinking Water will monitor Magna Water District for compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

What if I have more questions?

For questions about Magna Water District or its fluoridation interruption from May 2017 to January 2018, call Magna Water at 801-250-2118

For questions about water fluoridation in general or about *Salt Lake County Health Regulation #33: Fluoridation in Public Water Supplies*, call Salt Lake County Health Department at 385-468-3862.

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