

Reporting Emergencies in Public Water Systems

CLINTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (CCHD)

THIS FORM MUST BE CONSPICUOUSLY POSTED IN THE OFFICE USED BY THE SUPPLIER OF WATER

Emergencies occurring in your public water system must be reported to the following designated representative of the State Health Department:			
Name of Environmental Health Director Ryan Davies, P.E.			
Street Address/P.O. Box 133 Margaret St.	City/Town/Village Plattsburgh	State NY	Zip 12901
Telephone No. - Office (518) 565-4870 (Mon-Fri 8am – 5pm)		Telephone No. – Nights/Weekends/Holidays (Clinton County Emergency Services) (518) 561- 3371	

The NYS Sanitary Code, Part 5-1 requires that **ALL emergencies** (public health hazards) occurring at water systems be reported to the CCHD **within 24 hours**. The following is a list of some common water emergencies. (Please note this list is not all-inclusive):

Critical lack of water and/or pressure:

- Whenever water must be shut off without prior notice for more than 4 hours.
- Whenever system pressure drops below 20 psi.
- Whenever customers are without water due to drought or system disruption (natural disaster, power outage, water main break, etc.).

Water quality

- Any positive coliform bacteria result from the distribution system.
- Failure of the disinfection/treatment system (including chlorination, UV light, 1 micron absolute filters, etc.), or gross contamination of the water source.
- Any situation that indicates that water in the system may contain contaminants above levels of immediate health concern.
- Any situation causing unusually poor esthetic water quality.

Mandatory Emergency Response Action Steps:

1. Take or direct any immediate corrective /preventative measures that are obviously needed to reduce the risk to the public. **NOTE:** The supplier of water shall not take, use, or cause to be taken for use water from any emergency source or discontinue or alter disinfection or other treatment processes without first having notified by telephone or telegram, and received approval of, the Health Department. The Health Department shall advise the supplier of water and interested local officials of the approved action or proposed action by the supplier of water to protect public health during the emergency
2. Notify CCHD at the phone number above and (if applicable) the system administration
3. Determine and implement appropriate corrective response actions
4. Inform consumers of the emergency **within 24 hours**, or sooner if warranted by the emergency, and again as the status changes. Inform the consumers of any actions they can take to protect their health