



News Release

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Mason County: Alderbrook water customers urged to boil water

OLYMPIA — The state Department of Health issued a boil-water advisory today for customers of the Alderbrook Water Co. in Mason County. The advisory was issued after back-to-back water outages that could have allowed potentially harmful contaminants to get into water lines.

Mason County Public Utility District #1, which manages the water system, attributed the first outage on Thursday morning to excess demand on the water system. The system's three 100,000-gallon reservoirs went completely dry, causing the system to lose pressure. A second outage occurred Thursday night when an electric circuit breaker tripped.

With a heat wave settling over the area for the next week, the utility district is asking customers with even-numbered street addresses to limit outdoor water use to even-numbered calendar days. Residents with odd-numbered addresses are being asked to water only on odd-numbered calendar days. The conservation request will last at least into next week.

The water system serves 455 homes and businesses in eastern Mason County, including the Alderbrook Resort and Spa and the Alderbrook Golf Club clubhouse. The area's typical population of over 1,100 swells to more than 3,100 during the summer.

The PUD will collect water quality samples over the weekend to determine whether bacteria got into the water. The state will end the advisory if the water quality is good,

Until then, residents should boil tap water they use for drinking, brushing teeth, preparing food, making ice and washing dishes. To kill germs, the Department of Health recommends heating tap water to a brisk boil for one minute and allowing the water to cool before using.

Customers with questions about their water can call the utility district at 360-877-5249.

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