

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and the Arizona Army National Guard are concerned about lead in drinking water at the Buckeye Armed Forces Reserve Center. Although most drinking water systems have very low levels of lead, the water provided by the Buckeye Armed Forces Reserve Center has lead levels above the EPA action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb), or 0.015 milligrams of lead per liter of water (mg/L). Under Federal law we are required to have a program in place to minimize lead in your drinking water by March 31, 2018.

This program includes:

1. Providing you educational material on lead in drinking water
2. Evaluating corrosion control treatment remedies to make it less likely that lead will dissolve into the drinking water
3. Source water treatment (removing any lead that is in the water at the time it leaves our treatment facility)

This brochure also explains the simple steps you can take to protect yourself by reducing your exposure to lead in drinking water.

Important Information about Lead in Your Drinking Water

The Arizona Army National Guard found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some buildings at the Buckeye Armed Forces Reserve Center. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

HEALTH EFFECTS OF LEAD

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

SOURCES OF LEAD

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. The main sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the work place and exposure from certain hobbies (lead can be carried on clothing or shoes). Lead is found in some toys, some playground equipment, and some children's metal jewelry.

Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 0.25 percent wetted surface lead to be labeled as "lead-free."

The Arizona Army National Guard is evaluating the drinking water well and the distribution system to determine the source of the lead.

When water is in contact with pipes, and plumbing containing lead for several hours, the lead may enter drinking water.

Don't forget about other sources of lead such as lead paint, lead dust, and lead in soil. Wash your children's hands and toys often as they can come into contact with dirt and dust containing lead.

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO REDUCE YOUR EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN YOUR WATER

1. Run the water to flush out lead

Run water from the cold water tap for 15-30 seconds to flush lead from interior plumbing or until it becomes cold and reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking, if it hasn't been used for several hours.

2. Use cold water for cooking

Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Also, do not boil water from the hot water tap, as hot water can dissolve lead more quickly than cold water. Rather, if you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and heat it on the stove.

3. Look for alternative sources of drinking water

You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or www.nsf.org for information on performance standards for water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality.

**WHAT HAPPENED?
WHAT IS BEING DONE?**

Elevated levels of lead were found in several samples collected during routine sampling in September at the Buckeye Armed Forces Reserve Center.

The Arizona Army National Guard is investigating the source of the elevated lead levels and evaluating corrosion control remedies to treat the water. A program will be put into place by the end of March 2018 to ensure the lead levels in your drinking water are reduced to within safe levels.

Lead levels in tap water samples collected previously at the Buckeye Armed Forces Reserve Center have been consistently below the EPA action level of 15 ppb until September 2017. The Arizona Army National Guard is investigating what the potential cause of the increase in lead level.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information call Kim Birdsall with the Environmental Management Office at (602) 267-2498. For more information on reducing lead exposure and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/lead, or contact your health care provider.

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Lead in Drinking Water

