

## **Important Information about Lead in Your Drinking Water:**

Buffalo found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. 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.

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, which may affect brain development.

Lead is a common metal found in the environment, and 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 for certain hobbies (lead can be carried on clothing or shoes). Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as “lead-free” can still contain up to 8.0% lead and may contribute to lead levels in drinking water. EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of a person’s potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Infants who consume mostly formula mixed with lead-containing water can receive 40 to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water.

- 1.Run your water to flush out lead.** Run water for 15-30 seconds to flush lead from interior plumbing or until it becomes cold or 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 and preparing baby formula.** Lead dissolves more easily into hot water.
- 3.Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- 4.Look for alternative sources or treatment of 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](http://www.nsf.org) for information on performance standards for water filters.
- 5.Test your water for lead.** Buffalo’s water system doesn’t provide free testing. If you would like to get your water tested for lead, the State Environmental Laboratory Services provides this service for a fee.
- 6.Get your child’s blood tested.** If lead levels persist, contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead, if you are concerned about exposure.
- 7.Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead.** 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 8% lead to be labeled as “lead free.” Visit the NSF website at [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures.

### **What happened? What is being done?**

In the past, lead levels were good and did not exceed the limit. However, two of the ten samples taken on June 29<sup>th</sup>, exceeded the limit. Buffalo will now be taking extra samples to monitor closely for lead.

**For More Information:** Call us at 580-735-2030 or visit our Web site at [www.buffalooklahoma.com](http://www.buffalooklahoma.com). For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA’s Web site at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead), or contact your health care provider.

# Public Education Certification

Public Water System: **Buffalo**  
PWSID No.: **OK2003003**

For lead exceedance occurring: **June 1st to September 30th, 2015**

Check all that apply:

- Hand or direct delivery on \_\_\_\_\_ date(s)
- Mail, as a separate notice or included with the bill on \_\_\_\_\_ date(s)
- Posted in conspicuous locations on \_\_\_\_\_ date(s)
- Education distributed by \_\_\_\_\_ radio and/or \_\_\_\_\_ television station on \_\_\_\_\_ date(s)
- Education distributed by \_\_\_\_\_ newspaper on \_\_\_\_\_ date(s)
- Education distributed by other means \_\_\_\_\_

The public water system indicated above hereby affirms that public education has been provided to consumers in accordance with the delivery, content, and format requirements and deadlines in 40 C.F.R. § 141.85.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of owner or operator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Complete form and return to: **Laurelin Hodgson**  
**Department of Environmental Quality**  
**Water Quality Division**  
**P.O. Box 1677**  
**Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677**  
**Email: [Laurelin.Hodgson@deq.ok.gov](mailto:Laurelin.Hodgson@deq.ok.gov)**  
**Fax: 405-702-8101**

\*Make sure to include a copy of your water system's lead public education along with this form\*