

For Immediate Release  
[Date]

Contact: [Name] [Phone]  
or [Email]

## Media Advisory Precautions for Food Establishments During [System] Water Interruption

[Issuing City/County] - A loss of pressure in the [System name] water supply has occurred on [date] due to [reason-water main break, loss of power]. Residents and businesses, including food establishments, in the [insert geographic area affected, water supplier, other defining characteristics, as appropriate] area(s) may be without water.

Food establishment operators should follow the instructions in the “Emergency Action Plans for Retail Food Establishments” guide. This document is also available on the Michigan Department of Agriculture Web site [www.michigan.gov/michiganprepares](http://www.michigan.gov/michiganprepares). Instructions are available in English, Spanish, Arabic and Chinese.

Food establishments without water are ordered to cease operation unless all instructions in the “Emergency Action Plans for Retail Food Establishments” can be followed. This includes the ability to use safe water for any drinking, cooking, ice making, handwashing, and dishwashing. Water may be hauled in a clean, sanitized container from a safely working public water system or commercially bottled water may be used.

Food establishments having an alternate water source should discontinue operations as inventories of clean equipment, utensils and tableware are exhausted. Also, discontinue operations when cleanliness of the physical facility jeopardizes food safety.

[agency name] food safety inspectors are monitoring efforts of food establishment operators impacted by this advisory to help ensure the safety of food sold in the area. [System] is working to restore pressure and it's estimated the problem will be resolved within [estimated time frame].

A boil water notice will likely be issued once pressure is restored. Water staff will take remedial actions such as flushing and collecting bacteriological samples from around the system. The samples will be collected to determine that the water quality meets the state drinking water standards. You will be informed when tests show no bacteria.

Please share this notice with other people who drink this water by distributing this notice or posting in a public place. For more information, contact [Name] at [Phone] or [Email].

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## Sample Talking Points - Water Interruption

***NOTE: The appropriate boil water notice should be issued once pressure is restored.***

- The Michigan Department of Agriculture encourages all food establishments to follow the instructions outlined in the “Interruption of Water Service” section of the Emergency Action Plans for Retail Food Establishments guide.
- Boiled or hauled water should be used for drinking, making coffee, or other beverages, and food preparation until further notice.
- Food establishments should use bottled beverages and canned foods, when feasible.
- Access to working toilet facilities must be provided for employees.
- Commercial ice should be used.
- Hands should be washed using bottled or hauled warm water in a container with a spigot, allowing water to flow over hands into a sink drain. Chemically treated towelettes may be used when only handling wrapped foods and an operating handsink is available at the alternative toilet room.
- Single-service articles should be used, when possible. Limited manual dishwashing may be done using the wash, rinse, and sanitize method.

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