

March 3, 2008

Precautionary boil water advisory issued after water main break on Siesta Key

A precautionary boil water advisory has been issued while repairs are made to a water main break on Siesta Key that has interrupted service to homes along Ocean Boulevard, from Givens Street to Gleason Avenue. The area includes three condominiums: Siesta Townhouse, Sea Village and Windward Passage. Sarasota County Utilities crews are working to isolate the break, which was caused by a contractor working on Siesta Key.

Sarasota County is using automated telephone calls to notify residents of the precautionary boil water advisory.

While the county has no reason to believe the drinking water was contaminated, Florida law requires that drinking water providers issue precautionary boil water advisories to customers affected by pressure losses in water mains.

While the advisory is in effect, the county advises affected customers to boil all tap water intended for drinking, preparation of food, washing of food utensils or for first aid, making sure the water is brought to a rolling boil for one minute. Boiling the tap water disinfects it, destroying any harmful microorganisms. Bottled water can be used as an alternative to boiling the tap water.

Over the next few days, the county will collect a series of samples in the affected area and analyze them to ensure the drinking water wasn't contaminated by potentially harmful bacteria during the service interruption. Once the county has completed its analysis, a process that normally takes two to three days, customers will be notified by another automated telephone call that the boil water advisory has been cancelled.

For more information, contact Sarasota County Utilities Customer Service at 861-6790.