(Hailey, Idaho) – The City of Hailey announced its public drinking water safe for consumption on Saturday morning, less than 72 hours following a water main break that occurred Wednesday afternoon. Test results from water samples taken after a City water main broke were clean. The City Water Department followed Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regulations, taking several samples of water from the repaired water pressure zone, with at least a 24-hour gap between samples. The samples came back showing no contaminants present from harmful bacteria that can potentially enter a water system when water pressure is suddenly reduced.

City Water Department and a local excavation contractor worked late into the night on Wednesday, replacing a split 20-foot section of 8-inch pipe buried 6-feet deep. Water service was partially restored on Wednesday evening and completely restored the following morning. A boil-water advisory was put into effect until the water could be properly tested.

Hailey’s water system is sectioned into pressure zones. The water main break occurred in the pressure zone which includes Woodside Subdivision south of Winterhaven Drive. The City of Hailey, under advice from DEQ, notified 650 households within the South Woodside pressure zone to take precautions with drinking water over the 72 hour period following the water main break. Notifications were also distributed widely by local media through their breaking news outlets. A code red was sent by the Blaine County Communications Center at the request of Hailey’s Mayor through which 820 phone numbers were reached with a message about the boil water advisory. The code red message was
delivered at 5:45 PM, and the City completed its distribution of doorhangers to individual households by about 7:45 PM on Wednesday. The City of Hailey again reminds its citizens to sign up for code red messages on the Blaine County Sheriff website. This communication tool is used only during emergencies, wherein a few hours can make a difference to life-safety.

https://blainesheriff.com/

A boil water advisory alerts consumers that a portion of the drinking water system has been exposed and may be harmful to drink. Consumers should use bottled water or boiled water for drinking and until further notice. Boiling water for 1 minute will remove any risk of drinking the water.

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