



**The City of Bridgeport will perform a
Water Quality Maintenance Flushing – “Burn Out”
Beginning September 15, 2017**

Background: The City of Bridgeport, Texas is dedicated to providing the best quality of water available. Every month, the City of Bridgeport flushes valves to ensure the water served is safe and fresh. The water distribution team is tasked with the duty of ensuring that water in all points of the system is acceptable to our customers. There may be times that the water is discolored to a yellow, orange, or even brownish color. This can be caused by a build-up of manganese in the distribution system. Manganese is not harmful at the levels found in the system, but it can be a nuisance by discoloring the water. Over time, manganese will attach itself to the pipes and release when there are extreme changes in the velocity or pressure, similar to when there is a water main break or during flush valve testing. Nitrification can also occur in water systems that use chloramine for their residual disinfectant. Nitrification is a microbial process that converts ammonia and similar nitrogen compounds into nitrite and then nitrate. The key to stopping nitrification is to starve the nitrifying bacteria of nitrogen.

Remedy: Normally the water is treated with a disinfectant called “chloramine” which is a long-lasting disinfectant that ensures the safety of the water. The “Burn Out” (maintenance flushing) is a change in the treatment process from chloramines to free chlorine. The City of Bridgeport will perform a free chlorine shock of the water distribution system. This should help remove iron, manganese, and other constituents in the water mains, thereby stopping nitrification, and will improve water quality with **no associated health risks**. Free chlorine is the disinfectant of choice when performing a system-wide maintenance flush.

Nuisance Problems: During these efforts to improve water quality as a whole, there may be times of taste and odors that are abnormal. The City of Bridgeport is dedicated to making sure the water is safe to drink and will be monitoring the disinfectant levels continually during the process. If you get an odor or taste in your water, it does not mean it is unsafe to drink. Odors will be caused by the free chlorine disinfectant reacting in the lines to cleanse the system. Nuisance issues will go away as the process is completed.

Good News: After the completion of the process on October 15, 2017, the water quality will be substantially better than before. This process will help the water mains retain their disinfectant residual longer and will reduce monthly flushing. In turn, this flushing program will save money and help keep operational costs down while providing the customers a better quality product. Please be patient during the City’s efforts to serve you better.

If you have questions regarding the Burn Out, please contact the
Director of Utilities, James Elliott at (940) 683-3462 or jelliott@cityofbridgeport.net.