



Health Protection Agency
Chemical Hazards and Poisons Division
Centre for Radiation Chemical and Environmental Hazards
24 hour tel: 0844 892 0555

Water Section 2 – Private drinking water supplies

1. Recommendations for questions to ask Environmental Health Officers

- Have alternative drinking water supplies been arranged? Are bowser water supplies safe to drink?
- Are there hospital, drinking water, or food and drink processor or manufacturer abstractions in the area? Should they be closed?

2. Recommendations for questions to ask the Water Utility

- Inform water utility of the contamination, even if it is a private supply, may be a public water abstraction from the same aquifer.

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3. Post incident questions

- Does the drinking water now meet required standards for drinking water quality?
- Have drinking water supply pipes, tanks and plumbing fittings been adequately decontaminated?
- If permanent new water supply pipes have been installed, have these been verified to be uncontaminated?
- Is a report to the Drinking Water Inspectorate required?

Water Section 3 - Surface water

1. Recommendation for questions to ask the Environmental Health Officer

- Is the area used for water sports, swimming, fishing, etc.?
- Are there any other uses of the water resource, e.g. abstraction for drinking water or food and drink processing or manufacturing, fishing or agricultural usage for irrigation or livestock watering?
- Consider advising the public of contamination and controlling access to the affected area by people and animals (N.B. policing controls may be difficult)
- Will the area of contamination change over time, e.g. movement down a river?
- Could drinking water storage reservoirs have been affected?
- Is long term monitoring of the affected, or potentially affected area necessary?



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Water Section 4 - Marine or coastal water

1. Recommendations for questions to ask the Environment Agency/Maritime Coastguard Agency

- Is the area used for water sports, swimming, etc.?
- Is there any recreational or commercial fishing, or collection of other marine wildlife for food in the area?
 - Are aquatic organisms being sampled, for example by CEFAS?
- Consider advising the public of contamination and controlling access to the affected area?
