







**Health Protection Agency**  
Chemical Hazards and Poisons Division (London)  
London  
WC1V 7PP  
24 Hr Tel: 0870 606 4444

## 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.

### 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?




**Health Protection Agency**

Chemical Hazards and Poisons Division (London)

London

WC1V 7PP

24 Hr Tel: 0870 606 4444

**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?
