

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

WATER OUTAGE

Purpose: To meet the needs of the main hospital and K-wing during a water outage.

If you experience a water outage in your area immediately notify Physical Plant. After hours and on weekends notify the Switchboard who will notify the Physical Plant employee on site. Physical Plant will notify Hospital Administration. After hours Switchboard will notify Administrator on call.

Policy: I. Hospital

The Hospital Administrator in charge will make the decision whether it will be a short term outage or an extended outage based upon the information available to him. The decision should be based on the time of day the outage occurs, amount of water remaining in the domestic water tank, and estimated length of outage. Physical Plant will periodically advise the Administrator of the amount of water remaining in the tank. Hospital Administration will make the decision as to activation of the Incident Command Center.

Alternative Sources of Water

- A. Contact Caddo/Bossier OHSEP with request for tank of potable/non-potable water supply
- B. If problem is house pump failure, contact Shreveport Fire Department, request pumper truck and hoses
- C. Contact outside distributors of bottled or distilled water
- D. One thousand gallons of distilled water at Medical School on 10th floor
- E. Water well can be tied into *School of Medicine Power Plant* if needed to provide limited *non-potable water for steam / heating /sterilization or Chillers.

Areas Most Affected by Extended Water Outage (City-Wide)

- 1. Central Medical Supply – minimal for steam sterilization.
- 2. Surgery - scrubbing for surgery.
- 3. Renal Unit - water needed for dialysis process (The loss of water in itself is not life-threatening.
- 4. Laundry would shut down.

5. Anesthesia Evac system
6. Clinical Lab-Equipment
7. Radiation Therapy - Linear accelerator.
8. Animal Resources- Medical School Building

Extended Outage - Conservation methods to be implemented as needed by Hospital Administrator:

1. No new admits
2. Cancel ***elective and non-emergency surgery***
3. Cancel out-patient clinics
4. Restrict Radiology Services
5. Close Physical Therapy
6. Close Renal Unit
7. Restrict Emergency Room to Trauma or medical emergencies
8. Restrict visitors
9. Discharge patients
10. Release of non-essential personnel
11. Limit Clinical Lab work load to only essential testing
12. Limit use of water by Housekeeping
13. Turn off chillers (air conditioning)

Fire Safety Safeguards to be Implemented

1. All welding cutting (either by Physical Plant or outside contractors) shall be stopped.

Patient Care - Conservation Guidelines

1. Substitute juice and bottled water on patient care floors
2. Bathing of patients totally restricted or limited to an on need basis
3. Bed linen change restricted
4. Utilize bed pads to minimize linen change
5. Toilet flushing limited - possible utilization of potable pots with disposable bags or use red contaminated waste bags in toilet
6. *If hands are not visibly soiled, hand washing between patients will be with waterless hand cleaner. If hands are visibly soiled, bottled water and soap will be used.*
7. Hand washing by employees - use rubber gloves and change between patients, get sufficient cleaning solution acceptable to Infection Control
8. Use bottled water

In-House Contamination

If a threat should be received at the Medical Center of in-house chemical contamination of water tanks, contact the Department of Toxicology, (57800), and the Department of Pathology (55860). They will lend assistance in determining if a problem exists and, if so, the type of contamination. It can take between 8 to 24 hours to actually determine if we have a problem and the nature of the problem.

General Facts Concerning Water Supply

Two domestic water tanks – combined capacity at 17,000 gallons.

The hospital uses approximately 28,000 gallons of water in a 24-hour period.

Domestic water ***tanks will*** not feed:

1. Laundry
2. Kitchen
3. A, B, C and ***E*** wings

Domestic water tank does feed:

1. H, G, J and ***K***

With proper water consumption, domestic water should last about 8 to 10 hours.

Estimated peak consumption hours: 6:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

*Water cannot be used for drinking, cooking or bathing.