

FORT CHIPEWYAN WATER TREATMENT PLANT UPDATE

November 3, 2025 – 12:30 p.m.

Current situation

Progress is being made on restoring regular water service in the community, but increased sediment due to low water levels on Lake Athabasca continues to present a challenge.

The plant started producing potable water last night and the flushing of the distribution system will begin today or tomorrow, as long as potable water continues to be produced. Flushing is the next step to restoring regular water service and is expected to take several days. Once flushing is complete, additional testing must be done.

The Boil Water Advisory and Water Conservation Advisory will remain in effect while the water distribution is flushed and more testing is done. At this time, we estimate the advisories could be lifted between Nov. 10-14, but this timeline can change based on what operators are seeing at the plant.

What does flushing the water distribution system mean?

Flushing means cleaning the pipes by increasing the flow of water to remove sediment and other built-up material.

Tap water will continue to be available during flushing. You may notice the water pressure and appearance fluctuating at times as well as a stronger than normal chlorine smell. Chlorine is used normally in the water treatment process and will evaporate while boiling tap water.

When flushing begins, you may see crews opening fire hydrants as part of the flushing process.

Turn on your water bleeder

Please turn on your water bleeder to prevent pipes from freezing as temperatures drop. If you need assistance to turn on your water bleeder, please contact Pulse at 780-743-7000 or 1-800-973-9663 and a crew member will go out to assist.

A Water Conservation Advisory is still in effect. Please continue to be mindful of water use and limit it to essential needs, which includes opening your water bleeder.

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Bottled drinking water available

Two cases of bottled water per household are available for pick up each day at Mamawi Hall from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Bottled water will continue to be available until the advisories are lifted.

Boil water for at least one minute

If you use the municipal drinking water system in Fort Chipewyan, bring tap water to a rolling boil for **at least one minute** before consumption, including:

- drinking
- brushing teeth
- cleaning raw foods
- preparing infant formula or juices
- providing water to pets
- making ice

When boiling water, **never leave pots or kettles unattended**. This can become a fire hazard or a risk to children being injured from scalding water or surfaces.

I drank tap water right before the Boil Water Advisory was put in effect, is this okay?

Yes. The Boil Water Advisory was issued before the tap water didn't meet regulatory requirements.

The water treatment plant has been able to partially treat water throughout this process and chlorine levels have been increased. **Water still must be boiled for at least one minute before consuming.**

If you or someone else accidentally ingested un-boiled tap water after the advisory was in effect, you should monitor for symptoms. Please contact Nunee Health Clinic or Alberta 8-1-1 for health advice and more information.

Regular updates and more information

Regular updates on the Fort Chipewyan Water Treatment Plant will continue to be shared with the community. All updates and copies of the Boil Water Advisory can be found at rmwb.ca/waterupdate and at Mamawi Hall.

The next update will be available around noon, on November 4.