



FREDONIA OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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Chief Joshua T. Myers

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BOIL WATER AND CONSERVE WATER ORDERS REMAIN IN EFFECT

Informational Notice • Issued October 28, 2026

Who is affected: All Village of Fredonia water customers, including those in the Town of Pomfret.

What You Need to Do

Boil before use: drinking, cooking, ice, brushing teeth, and coffee. Rolling boil for one minute, then cool.

Dishes: hand wash with boiled or bottled water and air dry, or use a dishwasher that reaches 170°F with a full dry cycle.

Bathing and laundry: safe, as long as bath water is not swallowed.

Keep conserving: every gallon saved helps the plant keep its filters working.

What Happened

According to the Chautauqua County Health Department, water from the Fredonia Reservoir currently contains seasonal aquatic vegetation and decaying algae, bringing more organic material into the treatment plant than it is able to handle.

Conserve Water Order (Friday, October 23)

The organic material clogged the plant's four filters so quickly that operators had to clean them ("backwash") every 24 hours instead of every 72 to 90 hours. Backwashing uses about 140,000 gallons of clean water per day. The Health Department notes the plant generally operates near peak capacity on a normal day, so that water came from storage. Without enough water to backwash, the filters could clog completely and the plant could stop producing water. Reducing demand keeps enough water available for the filters. Water met all state standards when this order was issued.

Boil Water Order (Tuesday, October 27)

Water leaving the filters exceeded state turbidity (cloudiness) standards. According to the Health Department, this was likely due to aging filter media. Fine particles can shield germs from chlorine, so disinfection cannot be relied on. The plant's chlorination system itself is working properly.

What Is Being Done

Water plant operators are closely monitoring treatment levels, continuing to backwash the filters more frequently than normal, and testing the water hourly.

When Will the Boil Water Order Be Lifted?

Testing can begin only after turbidity drops and filtered water stays within state standards. Two consecutive days of passing bacteriological samples are then required, so no date can be given yet. The public will be notified when the order is lifted.

For More Information

For specific boil water order or health inquiries, please contact the **Chautauqua County Health Department** directly at (716) 753-4481.

For water distribution questions and requests for assistance for those in need, contact the **Fredonia Emergency Manager, Chief Joshua T. Myers**, at (716) 672-2125, option 1.


28 OCT 2026 - 1425hrs
Joshua T. Myers
Emergency Manager
Village of Fredonia / Town of Pomfret