DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
27th SPECIAL OPERATIONS MEDICAL GROUP (AFSOC)
CANNON AIR FORCE BASE NEW MEXICO

2 December 2025

MEMORADUM FOR CANNON AFB

FROM: 27 SOMRS/SGXB

SUBJECT: 2025 Cannon Air Force Base & Melrose Air Force Range Lead Service Line (LSL) Inventory Public Notification

1. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) was first introduced in 1991 to identify and reduce lead and copper in drinking water through corrosion control techniques and routine monitoring. The EPA recently revised the LCR to further reduce the risk of lead in drinking water. The revision requires water systems to: 1) identify drinking water service lines that are either lead or galvanized downstream of a lead line, 2) implement a replacement plan for such service lines, and 3) provide an annual notification to facility occupants and residents until all service lines are identified as lead-free. This public notification is being distributed in accordance with item three.

2. In 2024, all drinking water service lines that supply facilities and military housing were inspected. All service lines at the Melrose Air Force Range were identified as lead free. Cannon AFB currently has five unknown service lines, with all others being identified as lead free. These five locations have not yet been confirmed to contain lead. If these service lines are identified to contain lead or are galvanized downstream of lead, they will be replaced as soon as possible. Service lines are smaller water lines that carry water from the main water line (typically running under the street) through your yard and into your home.

3. Based on the preliminary results of the drinking water service line inspection, the composition of the water line servicing 102 Chindit Blvd (Bldg 155), 502 Chindit Blvd (Bldg 206), 104 Kermit Evans Ave (Bldg 374), 112 Cunningham Ave (Bldg 1202), and 601 Chindit Blvd (Bldg 2209) cannot be determined. This situation is defined in the LCRR as a “lead status unknown” service line, meaning the service line may be lead but efforts thus far have been unable to confirm the material makeup. Cannon AFB routinely monitors lead in drinking water, and recent analytical results indicate concentrations of lead remain below the associated regulatory thresholds established by the EPA. While evaluation is ongoing to determine the exact composition, drinking water service lines identified as “unknown” are managed as though they are lead pending further investigation. Any service line where, following further investigation, the material make-up cannot be definitively determined will be replaced in accordance with the installation drinking water service line replacement program.

4. Cannon AFB routinely monitors the water quality and any necessary corrosion control techniques and is preparing to replace all lead service lines or galvanized service lines downstream of lead lines as soon as possible. The installation inventory and status of replacement plan can be found at https://www.cannon.af.mil/Environmental/. If you are

concerned, there are steps you can take to further reduce your risk. Information on reducing the risk of lead exposure in drinking water and the health effects of lead are provided on the attachment, and additional information can be found on EPA's Website at https://www.epa.gov/lead.

5. The Department of the Air Force and your Cannon AFB leadership are committed to the health and safety of you and your family. Reliable access to quality water is a priority for the Department of the Air Force – it impacts our people, our missions, and the communities we call home. For more information on the installation lead service line inventory and replacement plan, please contact Ms. Deanna Wilson at 505-342-3291. To learn more about the installation drinking water sampling program, please contact SSgt Jude Encinias at 575-784-4063.

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MILES L. CHEN, Maj, USAF, BSC
Flight Commander, Bioenvironmental Engineering

Attachment:
Information on Lead

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Information on Lead

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce the risk of lead in your drinking water.

What is Lead? Lead is a common metal found in the environment. The main sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the workplace and exposure from certain hobbies (lead can be carried on clothing and shoes). Brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may contribute lead to drinking water. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 10 to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Infants who consume mostly formula mixed with lead service can receive 40 to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water.

What are the Potential Health Impacts?

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems.

How Can I Reduce Exposure Risk?

Run your water to flush out stagnated water where lead may have accumulated. Run water for 15 - 30 seconds to flush lead from interior plumbing or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking if it hasn't been used for several hours.

Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Lead dissolves more easily into hot water.

Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead.