

**HOW TO DISINFECT SMALL QUANTITIES OF WATER
FOR USE DURING PERIODS OF NATURAL DISASTERS**

During a natural disaster, water supplies can become contaminated. Using contaminated water for drinking, washing dishes, brushing teeth, washing and preparing food, and making ice may lead to serious illness or even death.

“THINK BEFORE YOU DRINK”

The following procedures may be used to disinfect small amounts of water for use:

Before disinfection, remove debris from the water. If muddy, allow the dirt to settle out and pour off the clear water. This is what will be disinfected.

Boiling water kills harmful microorganisms and parasites. Bring the water to a rolling boil for one minute.

Water may be treated with chlorine or iodine tablets, or by mixing 10 drops (1/4 teaspoon) of unscented, ordinary household chlorine bleach (5.25% sodium hypochlorite) per gallon of water. Mix well and let stand for thirty minutes. It should have a distinct taste or smell of chlorine. If this is not present add 10 more drops and allow to stand for fifteen minutes. Do not use the water if you cannot detect chlorine in it. However, this process does not kill parasitic organisms.

REMEMBER that coffee and tea are safe only when made with water that has been treated. Water used for brushing teeth, bathing, washing dishes, making ice, or for cooking requires the same treatment as water for drinking.