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Lead and Copper Update What Happened in Flint?

California Water Association

May 18, 2016

What is the Lead & Copper Rule?



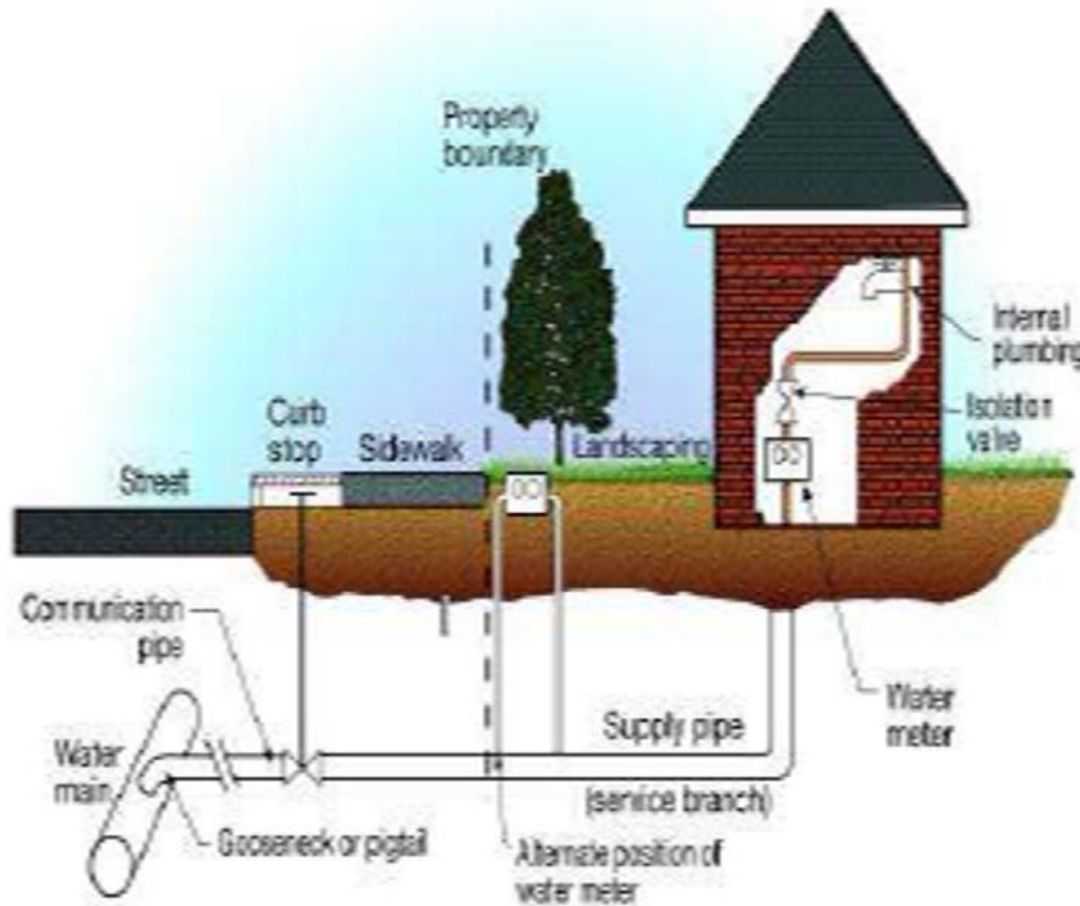
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- Rule enacted by EPA in 1991 to minimize lead and copper exposure in drinking water
- Lead and copper enter drinking water primarily through lead and copper containing plumbing fixtures

What is the Lead & Copper Rule?



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What is the Lead & Copper Rule?



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- Samples collected at customer taps
- Tier 1 samples to reflect worst case
- Number of samples collected determined by system size
- Compliance based on “90th Percentile” level
- Lead Action Level: 15 ppb
- Copper Action Level: 1300 ppb



What Happened in Flint?



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- Change in water source
- New water source had many water quality issues
- Water was more corrosive, and led to leaching of lead from service lines



Why is it Unlikely to Happen Here?



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- No known lead service lines
- Non-corrosive water
- Strict compliance with all state and federal drinking water requirements, including the Lead and Copper Rule

What Next?



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- DDW urging increased transparency
- Lead and Copper Rule Revisions
 - Increased number of samples
 - Redefining the sampling protocols
- Lead Service Line removal already part of the rule – customer service line needs to be removed as well

Lessons Learned



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We have an opportunity to learn from the Flint experience and other drinking water failure incidents:

- Trouble is preceded by change
- Operators must be responsive
- Water Professionals must be accountable
- Safe drinking water requires effective risk management (sensible decision making in the face of an emergency)

