



The attached information can be used as guidance for flushing your water pipes before collecting the upcoming VOC sample.

*There is no regulation for amount of time the water should be motionless (stagnant) in possibly contaminated pipes before the sample collection.*

72 hours was the amount of time used in a policy by the Division of Drinking Water when the inside of a water tank was coated with a non-NSF-approved coating. NSF certification is now required. The ratio of the tank volume to surface area is much larger than in water pipes, which means applying this criteria to water pipes is conservative compared to tanks. 72 hours was used by the City of Santa Rosa in the Tubbs fire and by PID for the Camp Fire. 72 hours simulates a consumer being gone for 3 days and drinking the water that comes out of the potentially contaminated section of pipe, which is typically around a gallon of water.

Del Oro has used 48 hours for testing of its service lines. The Division of Drinking Water agreed this was a more realistic time than 72 hours for a consumer to be away.

Del Oro also used zero (0) hours in the Phase 1 testing of homes to see if any benzene was present, but not to determine if the pipes had ever been exposed in the past.

This guidance uses 8 hours.

As the consumer, the choice of how long to stagnate is yours. The longer you can endure stagnation, the more likely a detection will be revealed if the pipes were subjected to contamination. Short durations will tell you if VOCs are currently present in detectable quantities; longer durations will more likely tell you if your pipes were subjected to VOCs when the water system was re-pressurized.