

THE ADVENTURES OF
WATER MONITOR MIKE

AND THE POLLUTED WATER SUPPLY





This comic is the sixth in a series of comic books created by First Nations Technical Services Advisory Group to teach students in grade 3-6 about the Superheroes that make and keep our water safe to use.

PDF copies of this booklet and other educational materials are available from TSAG.

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All communities in Alberta have community water monitors that help keep the water safe. A community water monitor is responsible for regularly monitoring drinking water quality for all water supplies. Their main responsibilities include:

Sampling and testing - taking samples for bacteriological analysis, taking measurements of chlorine residuals

Notification - contacting an Environmental Public Health Officer (EPHO) when aware of water quality issues, or when testing finds a positive bacteriological result.

Public awareness - providing education and awareness sessions about protecting drinking water. They also inform owners of private wells and cisterns about steps that can be taken if the water becomes contaminated.

Emergency response - they are part of a team responsible for responding to waterborne outbreaks or any other drinking water related incidents. May also be involved in increased sampling, advisory distribution.

Here are some tools a community water monitor uses.



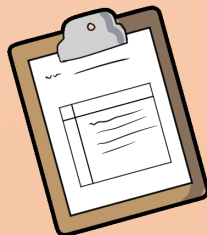
Nitrile Gloves



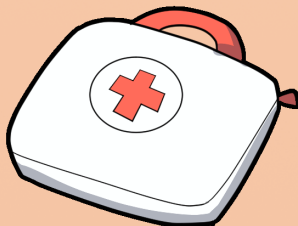
Alcohol Swabs



Vial



Field Sampling Data Sheet



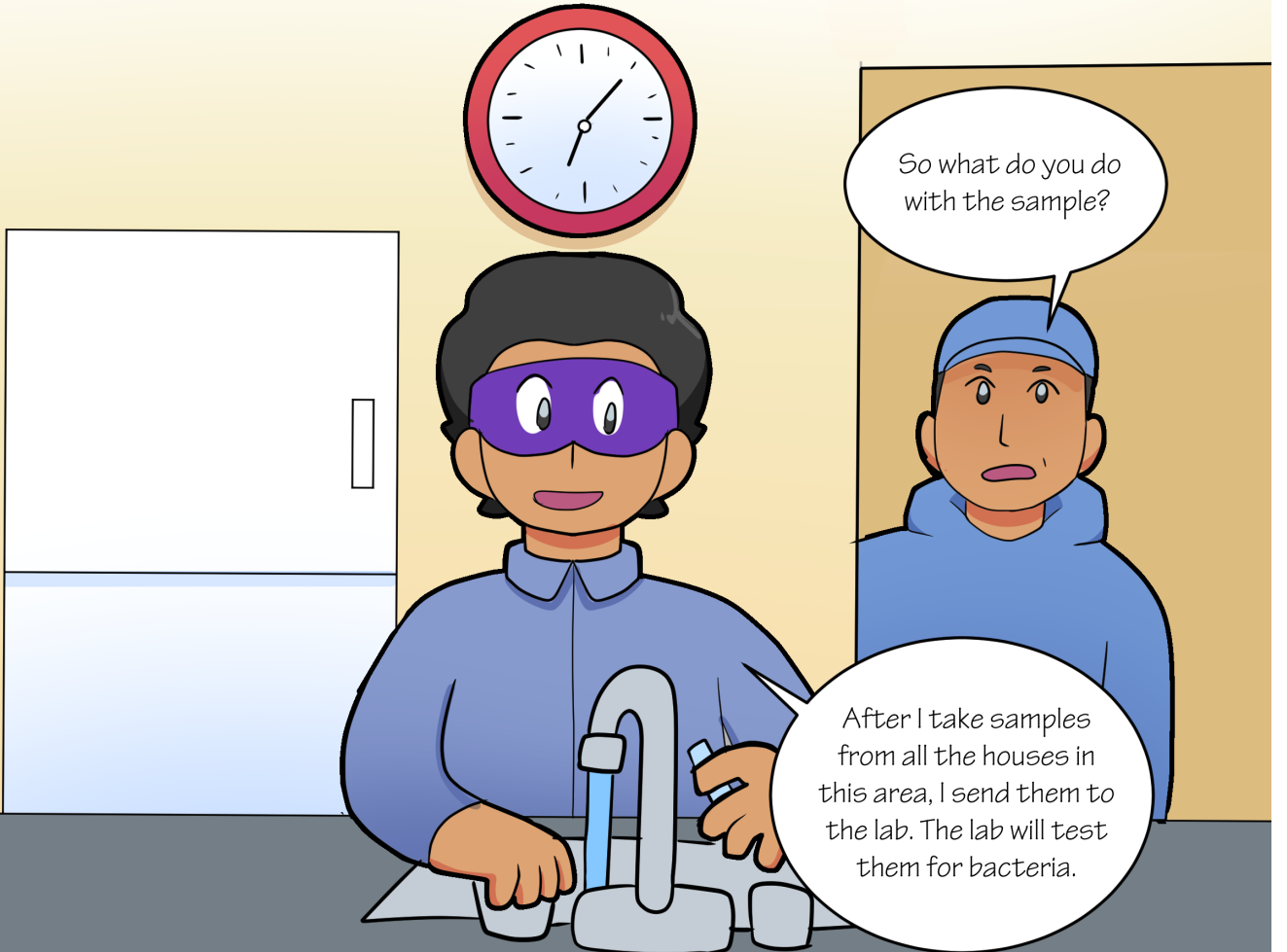
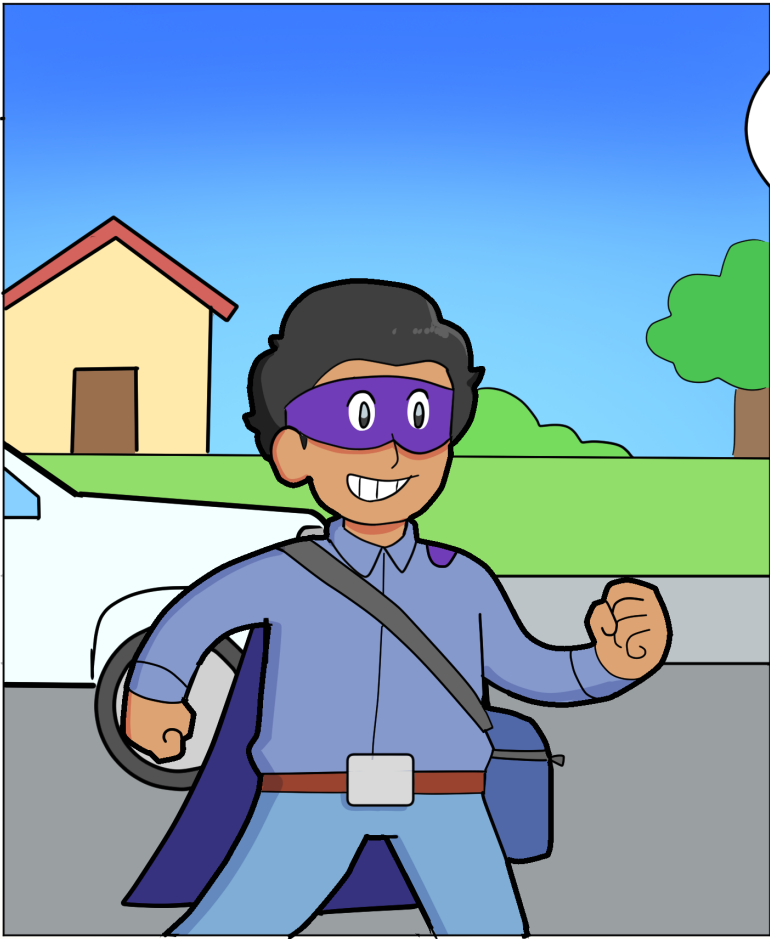
First Aid Kit

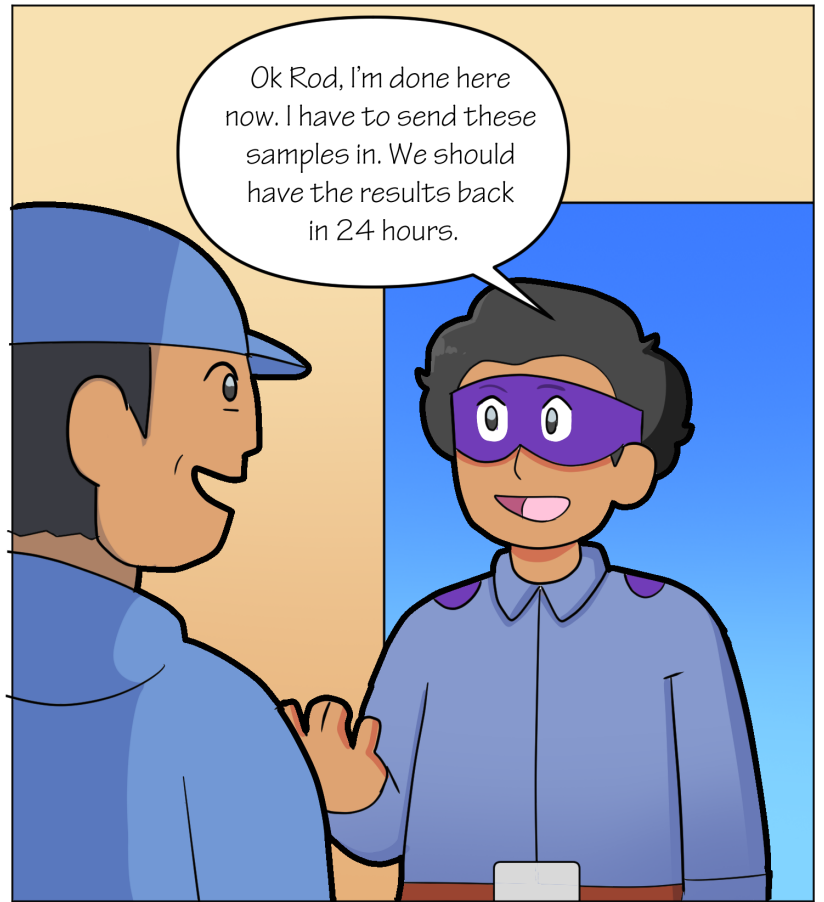


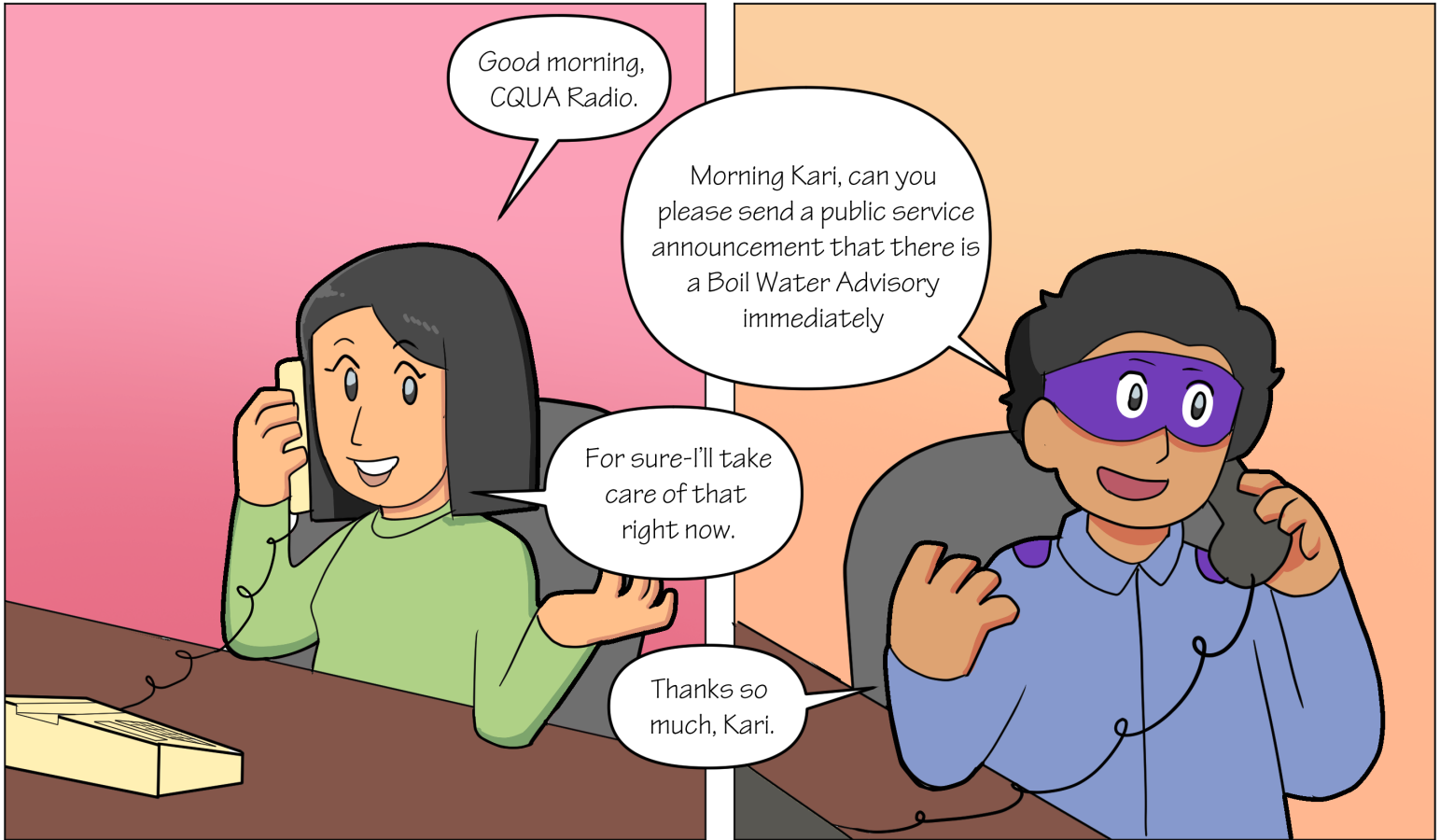
Every week Water Monitor Mike travels to homes in his community to take water samples.

Today, I need to get water samples from the Morins, Cardinals, Badgers, and Bradley's.







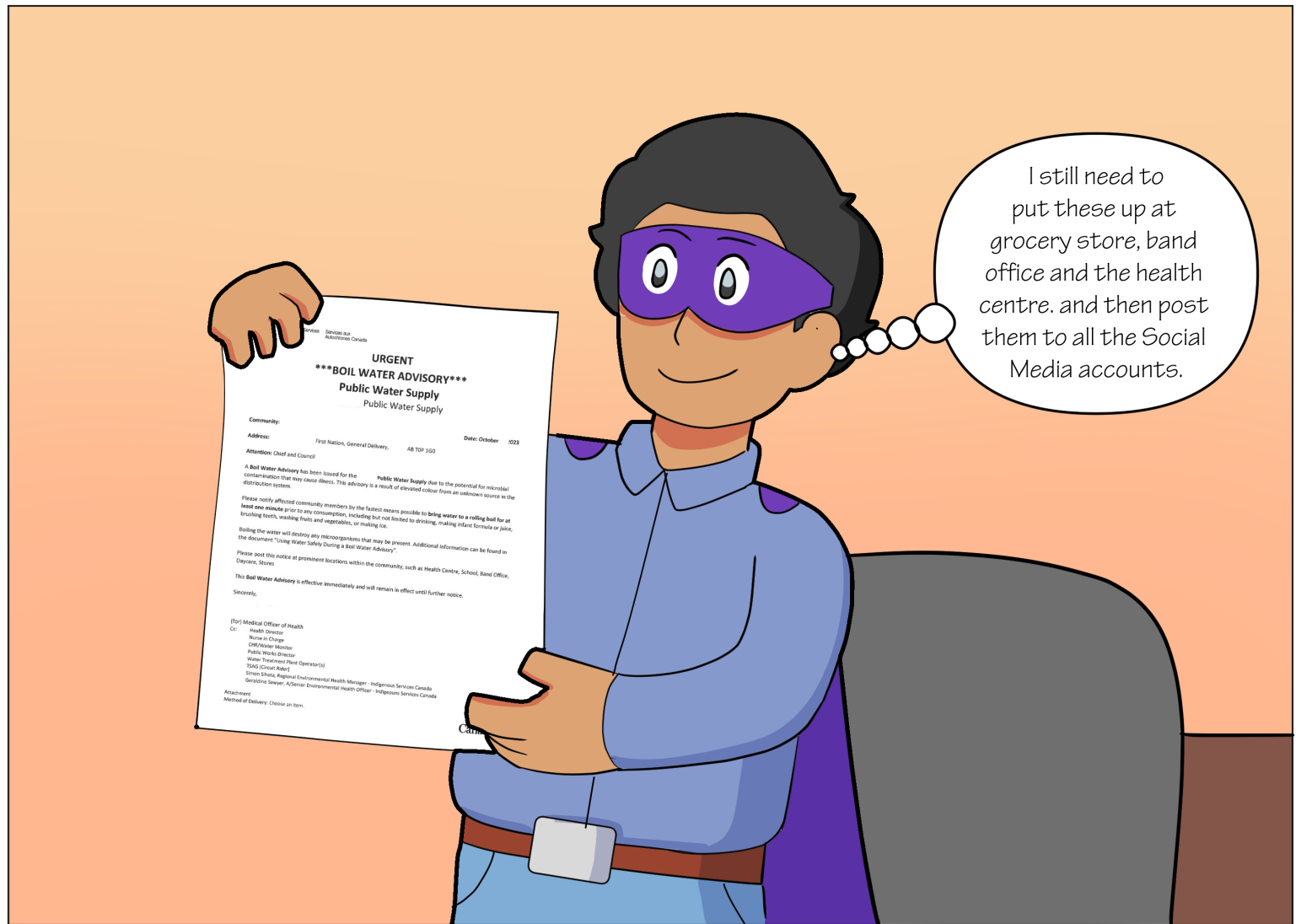


Good morning, CQUA Radio.

Morning Kari, can you please send a public service announcement that there is a Boil Water Advisory immediately

For sure-I'll take care of that right now.

Thanks so much, Kari.



I still need to put these up at grocery store, band office and the health centre. and then post them to all the Social Media accounts.

URGENT
 BOIL WATER ADVISORY
 Public Water Supply
 Public Water Supply

Community: First Nation, General Delivery, 48 TDP 150 Date: October 0223

Attention: Chief and Council

A Boil Water Advisory has been issued for the Public Water Supply due to the potential for microbial contamination that may cause illness. This advisory is a result of elevated colour from an unknown source in the distribution system.

Please notify affected community members by the fastest means possible to bring water to a rolling boil for at least one minute prior to any consumption, including but not limited to drinking, making infant formula or juice, brushing teeth, washing fruits and vegetables, or making ice.

Boiling the water will destroy any microorganisms that may be present. Additional information can be found in the document "Using Water Safely During a Boil Water Advisory".

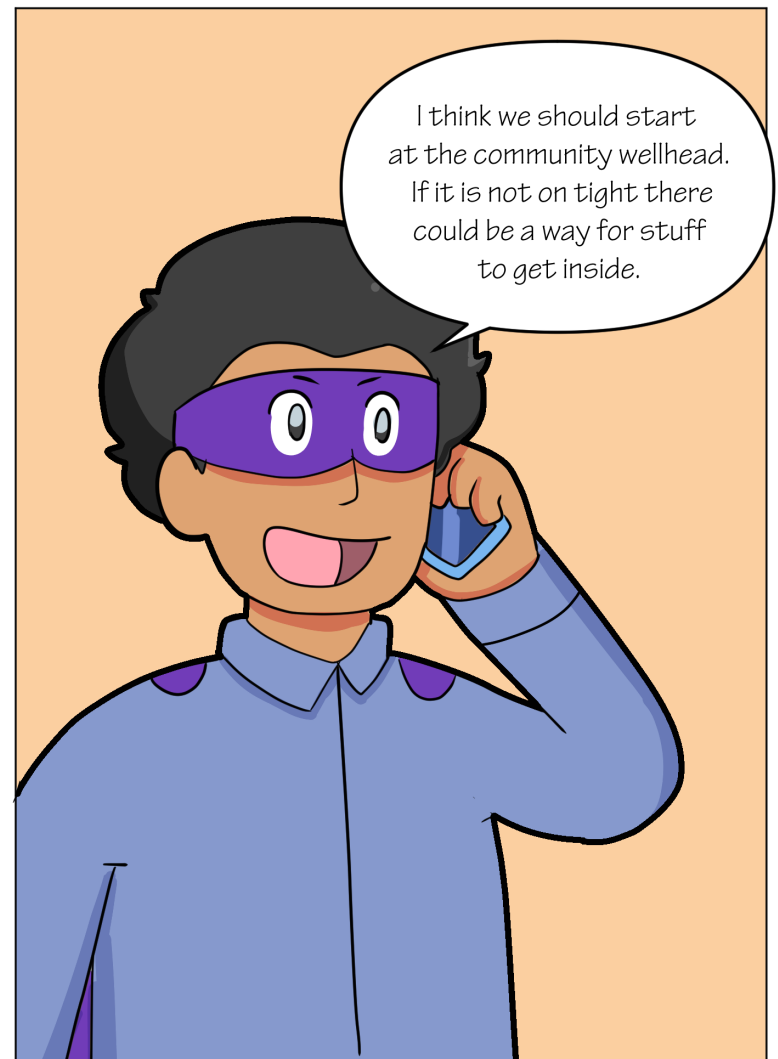
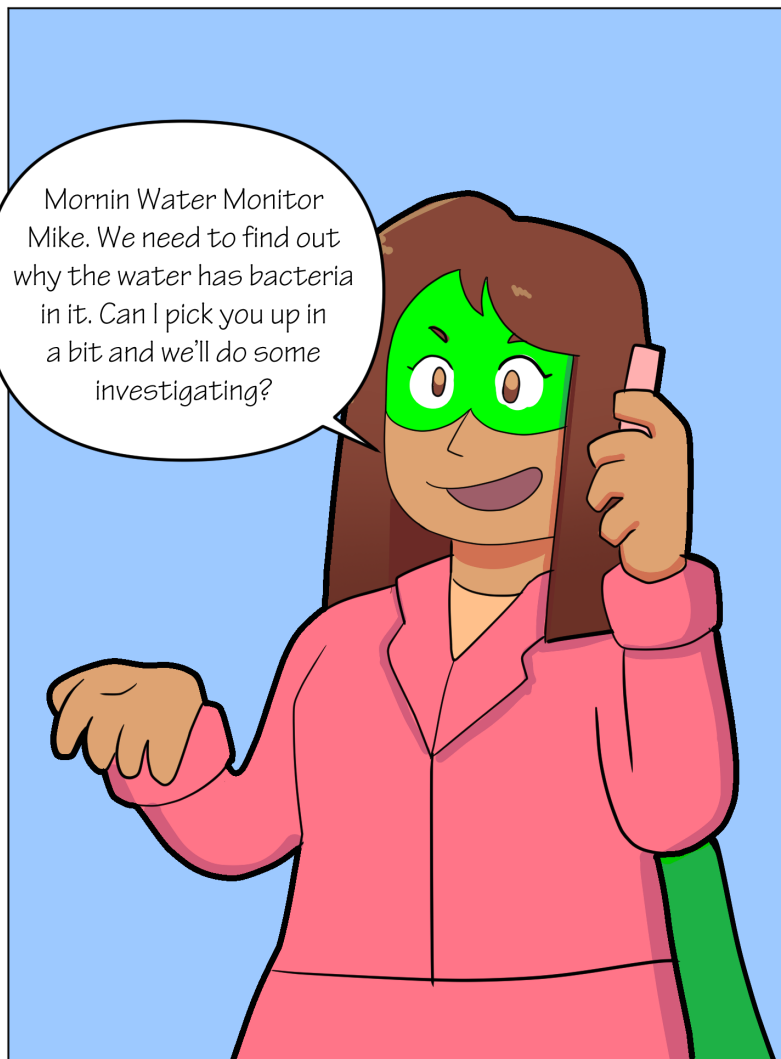
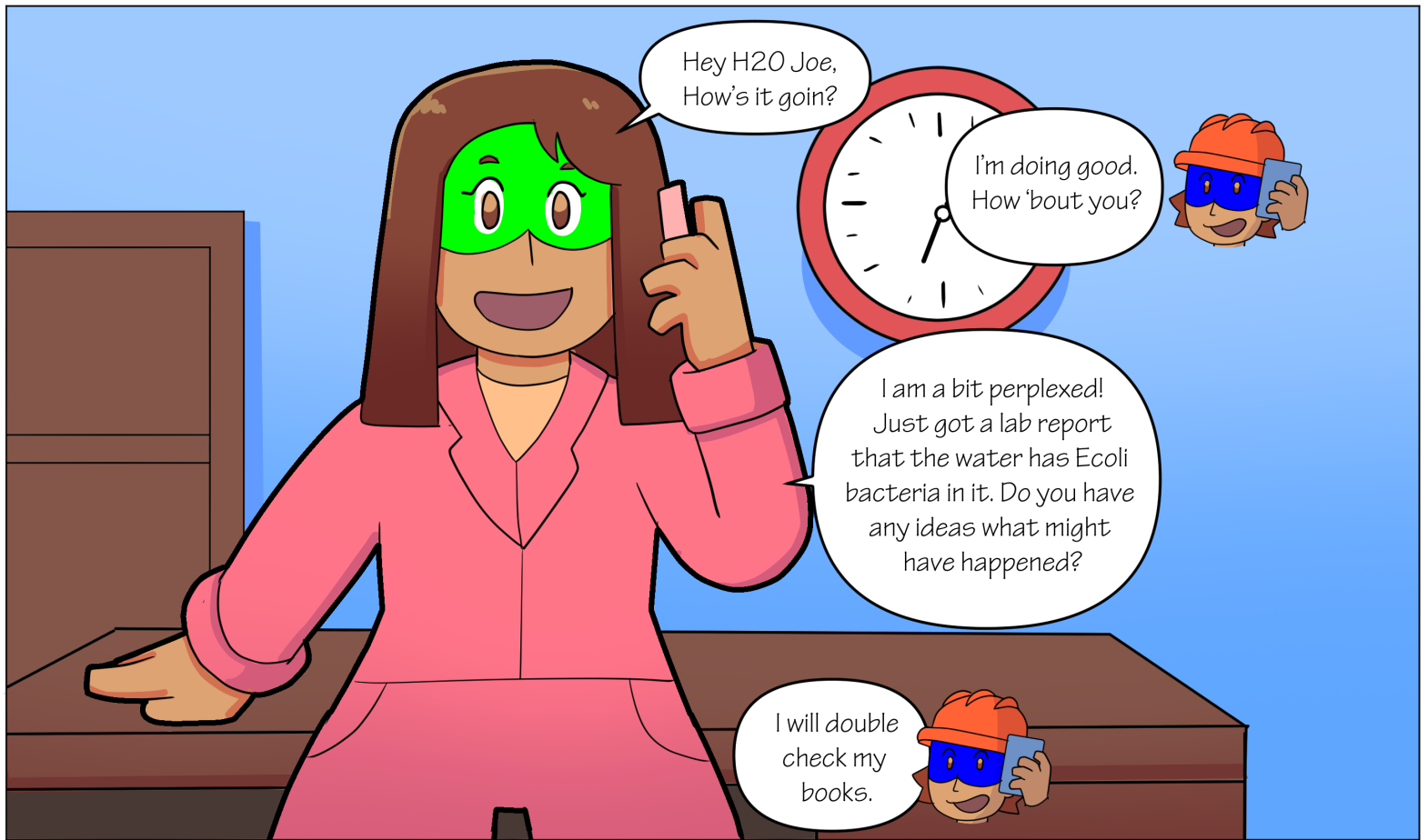
Please post this notice at prominent locations within the community, such as Health Centre, School, Band Office, Pharmacy, Stores.

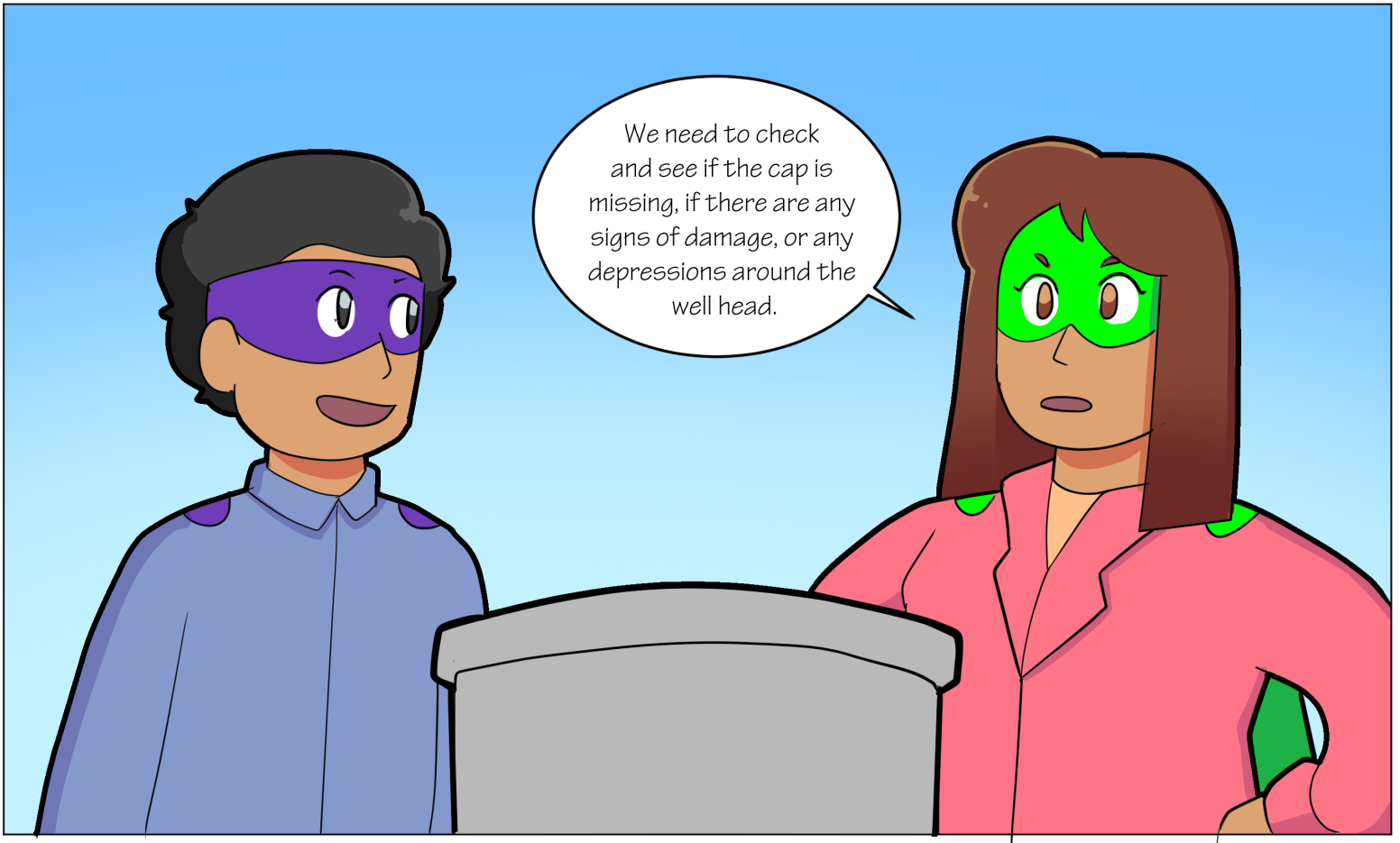
This Boil Water Advisory is effective immediately and will remain in effect until further notice.

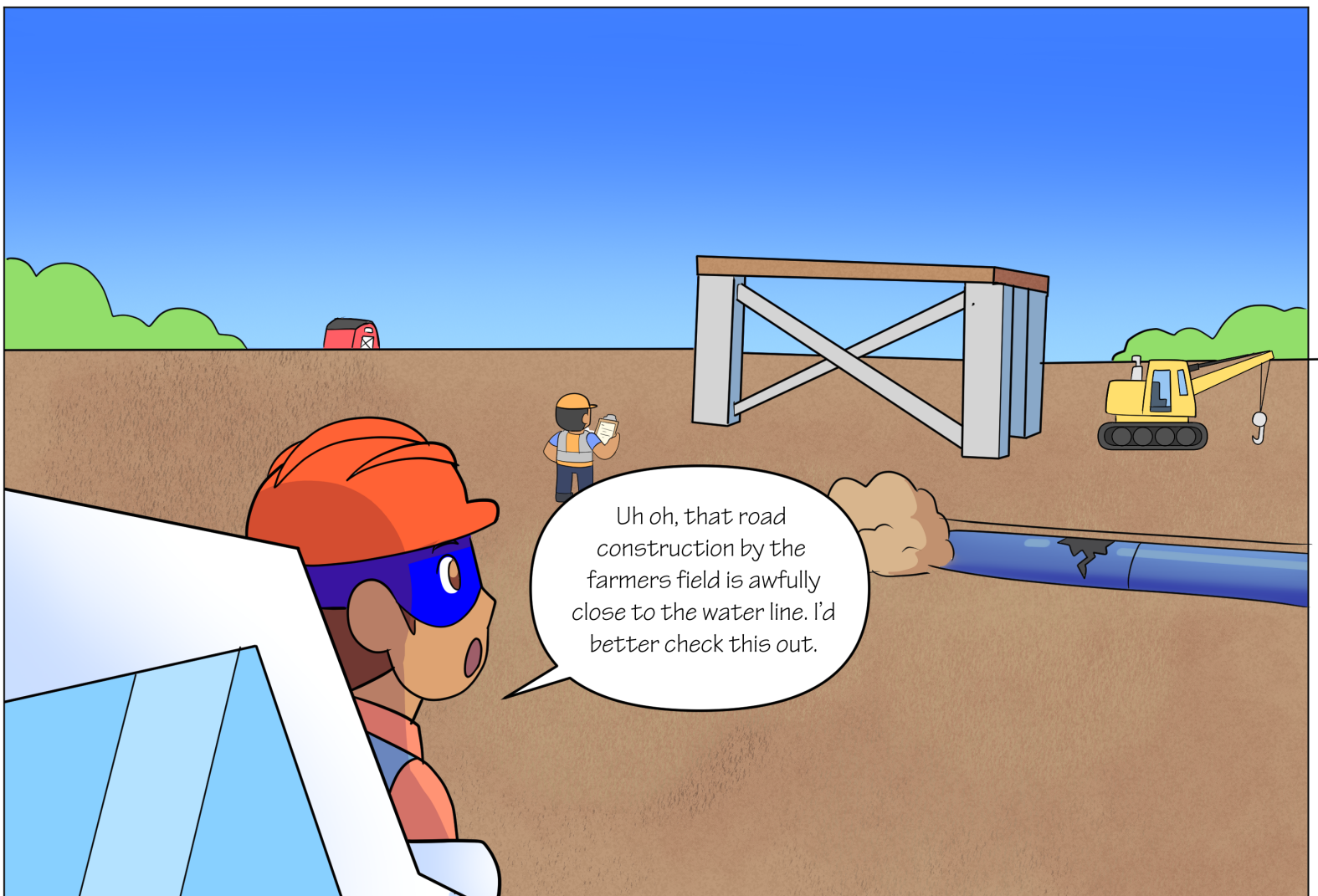
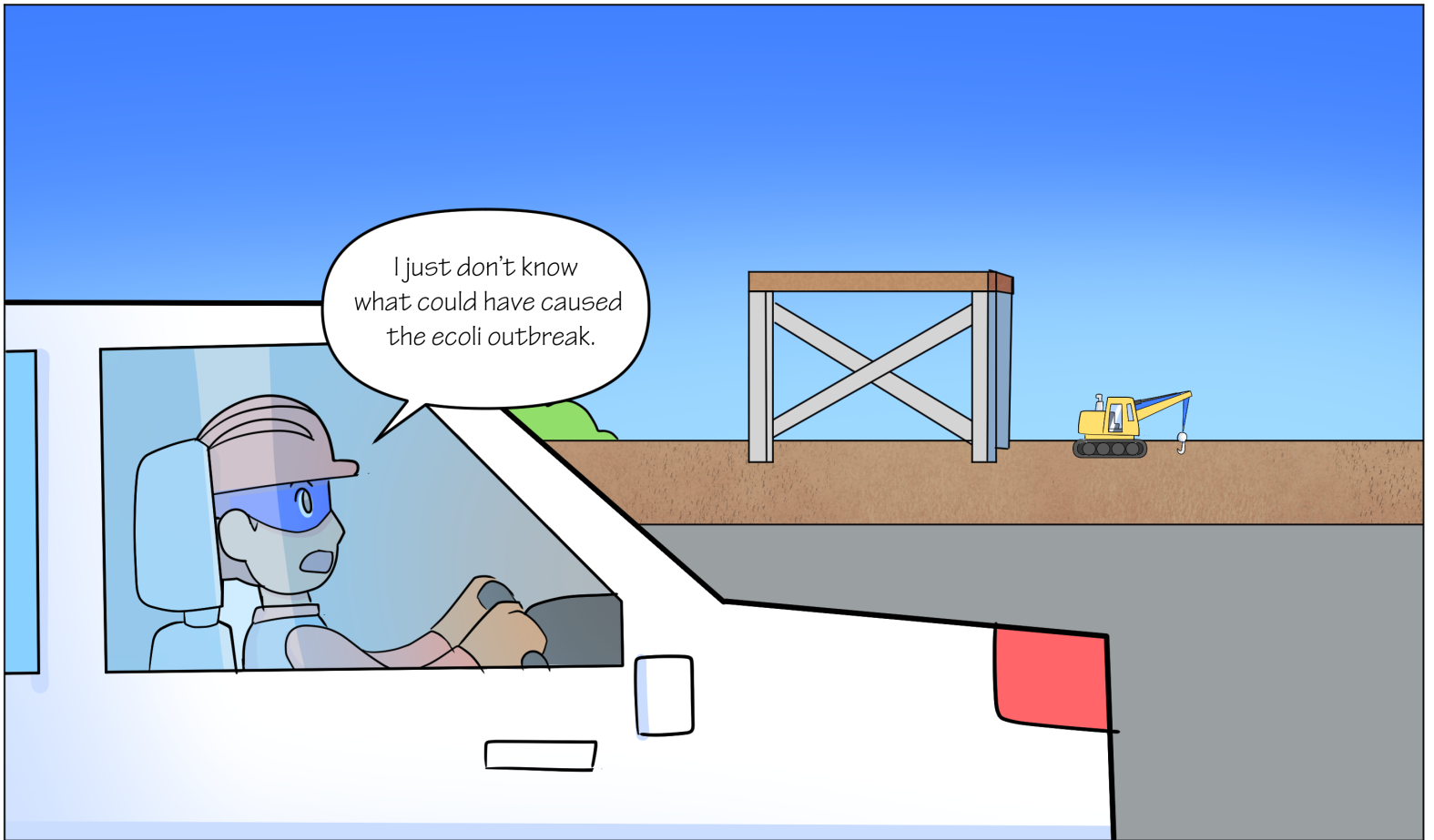
Sincerely,

(For) Medical Officer of Health
 CE: Health Director
 Nurse in Charge
 DM/Water Monitor
 Public Works Director
 Water Treatment Plant Operator(s)
 TSMO (Circle Email)
 Simon Shera, Regional Environmental Health Manager - Indigenous Services Canada
 Operations Supervisor - A/Senior Environmental Health Officer - Indigenous Services Canada

Attachment
 Method of Delivery: Choose an item.









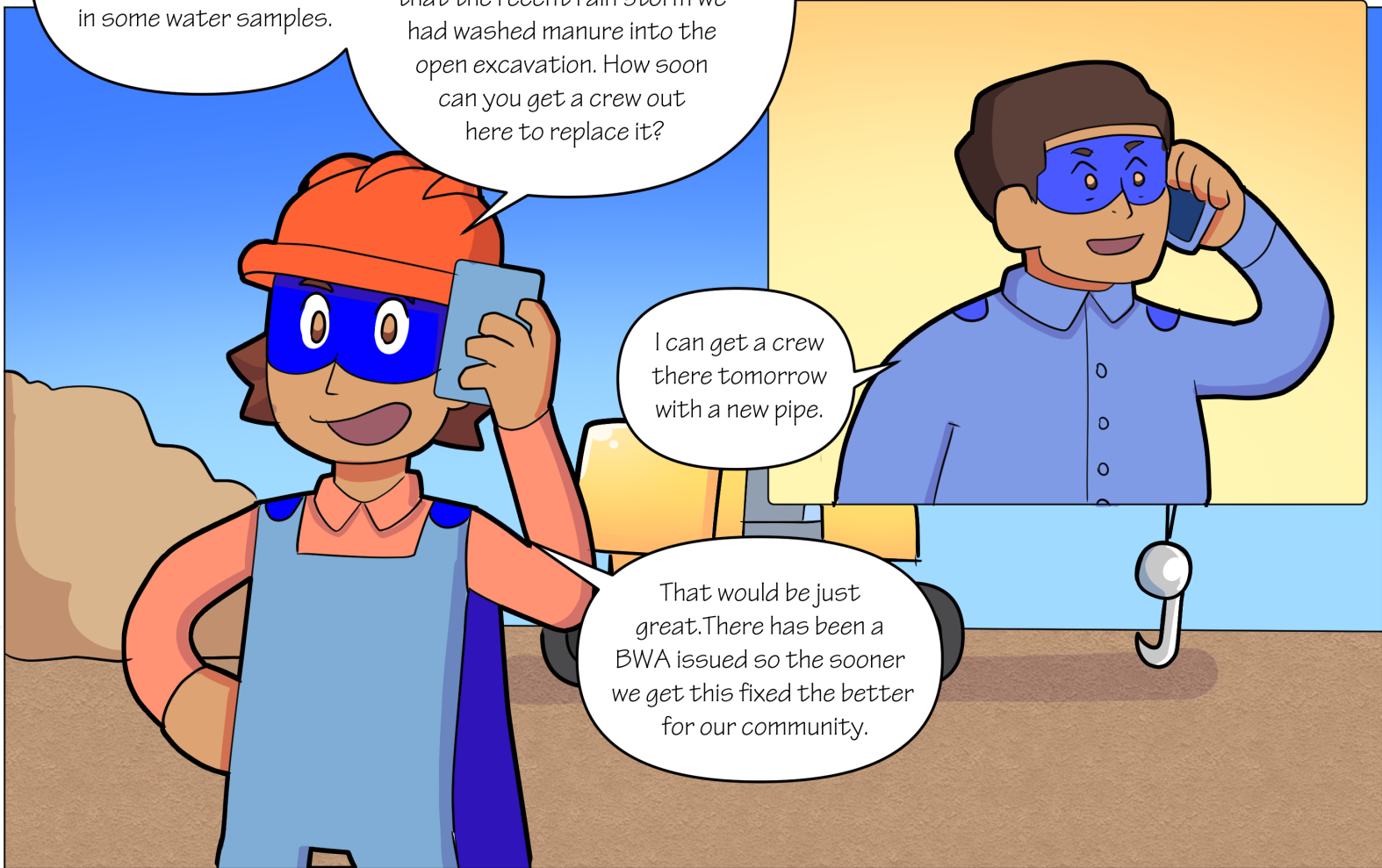
Hey Public Works Paul. We have recorded high levels of bacteria in some water samples.

When I went to investigate the lines I found that the construction by Farmer Fred's place was accidentally punctured. It is likely that the recent rain storm we had washed manure into the open excavation. How soon can you get a crew out here to replace it?



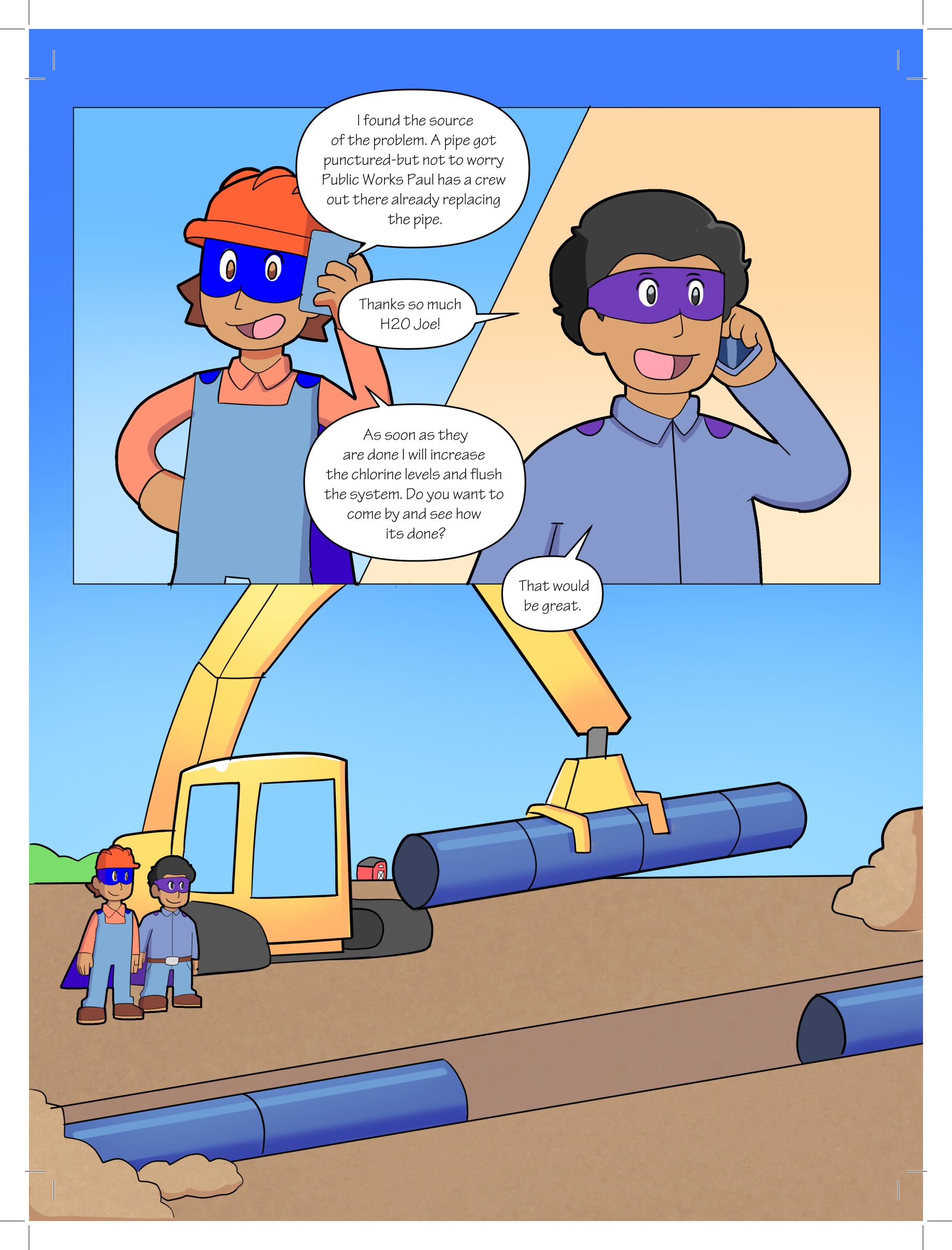
How long have you been working here? I think you may have accidentally put a hole in the water line. If that is the case then the manure from the cattle could have easily slipped into the water supply and caused bacterial contamination.

You will need to stop all construction until I get the water line fixed.



I can get a crew there tomorrow with a new pipe.

That would be just great. There has been a BWA issued so the sooner we get this fixed the better for our community.

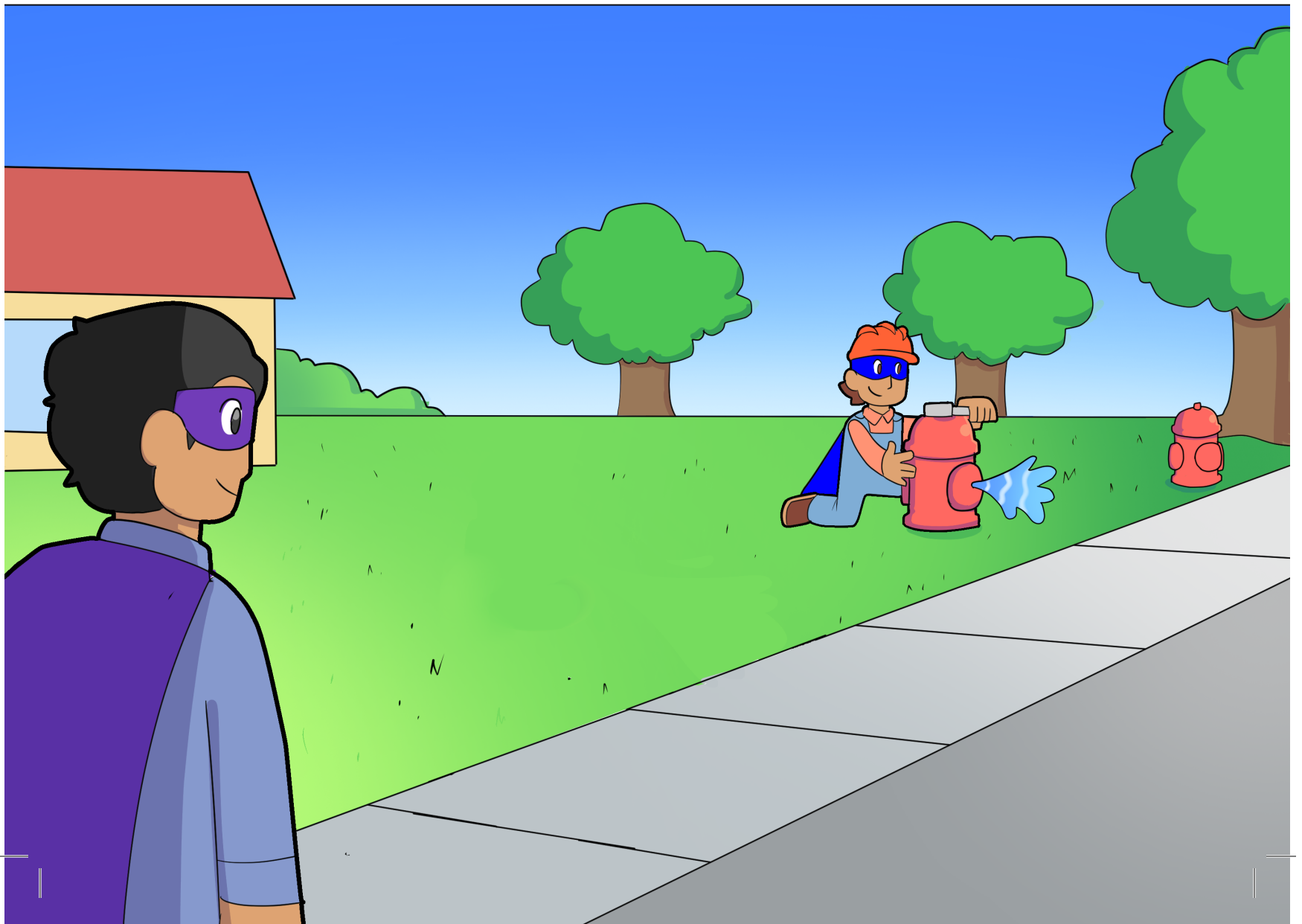
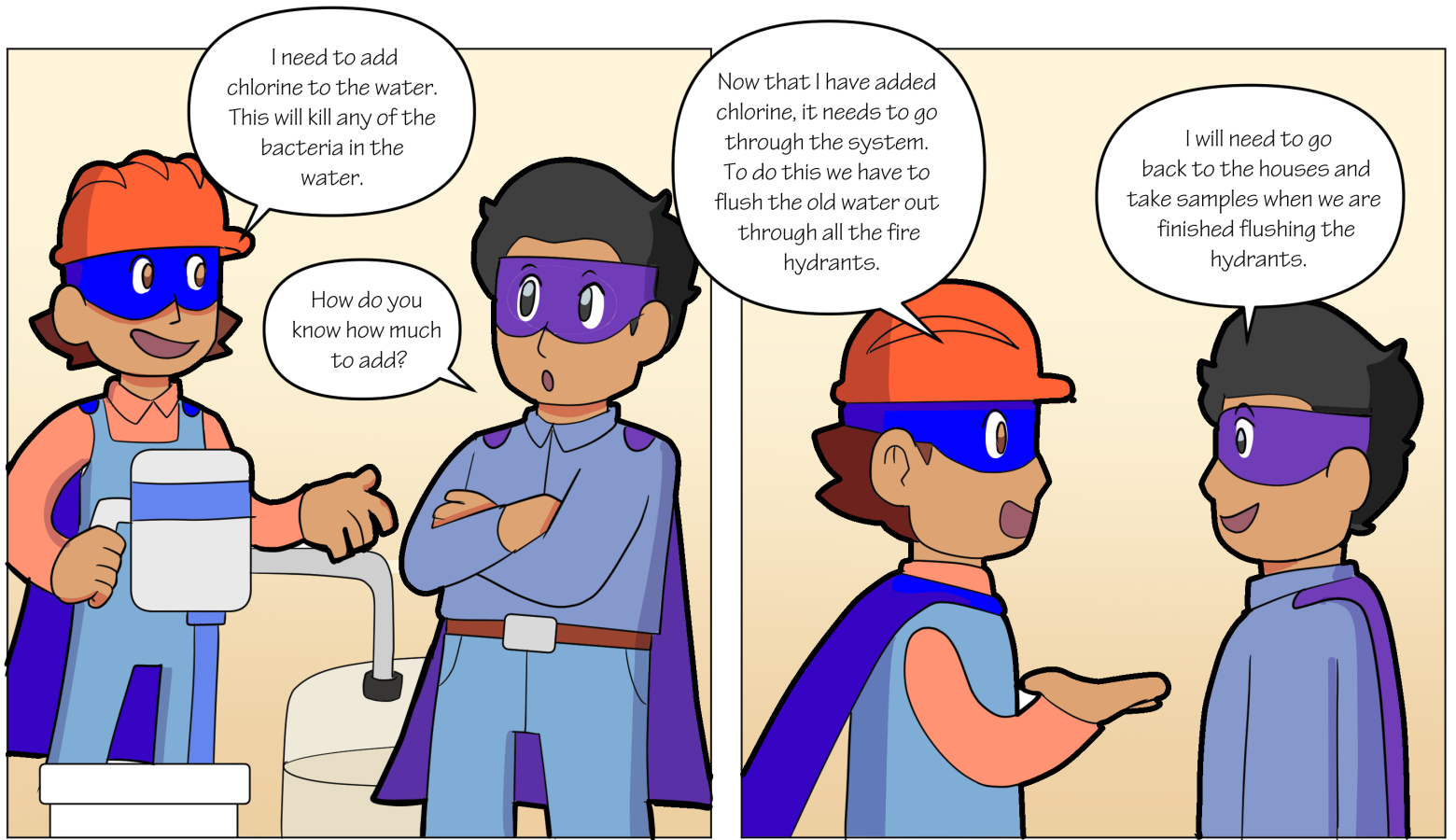


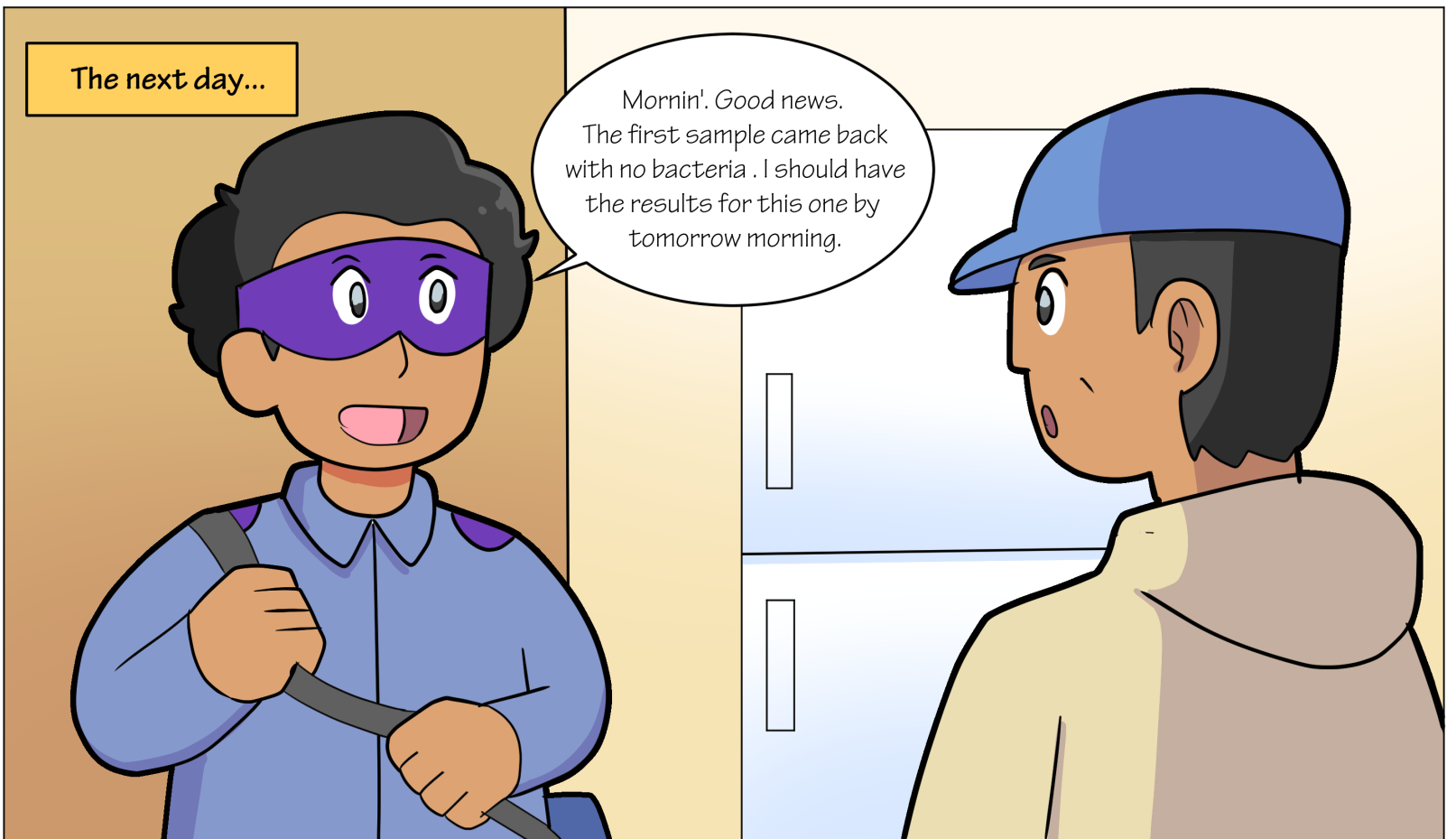
I found the source of the problem. A pipe got punctured-but not to worry Public Works Paul has a crew out there already replacing the pipe.

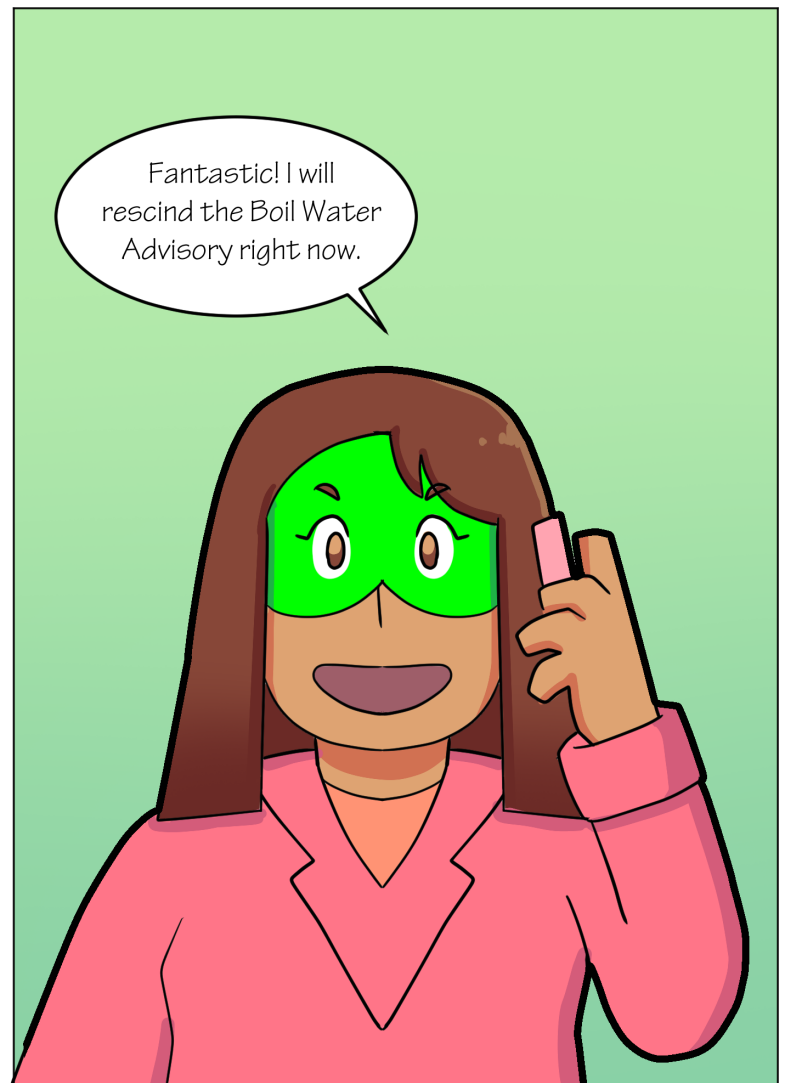
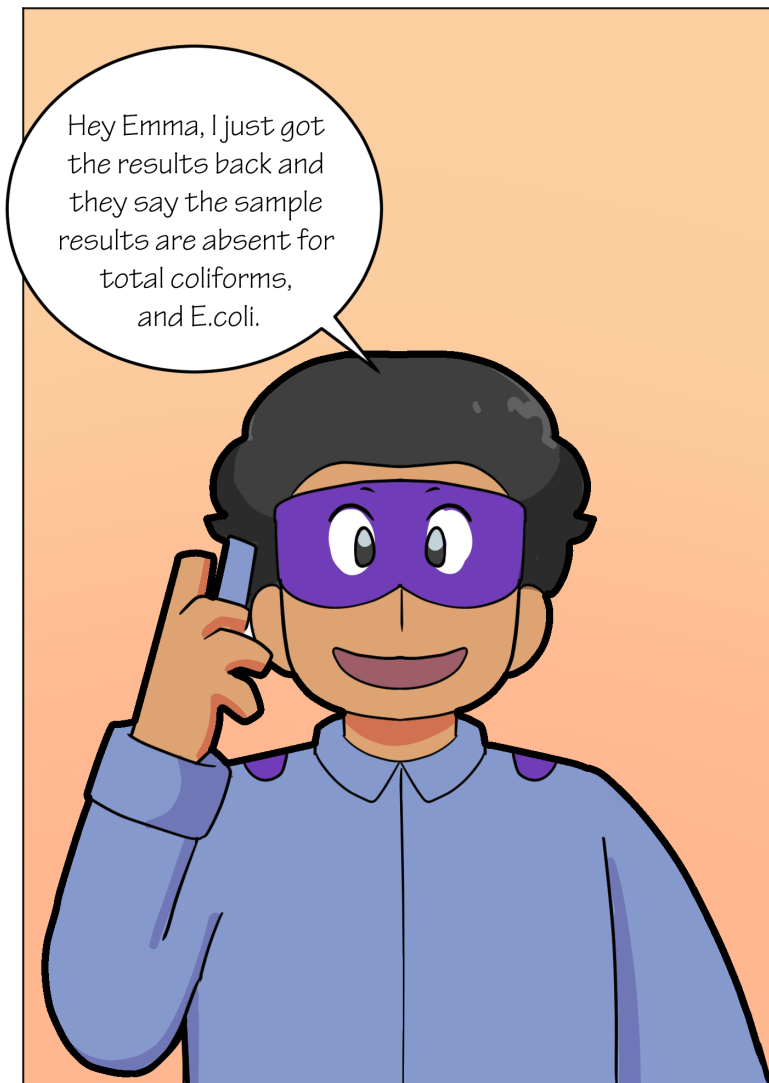
Thanks so much H2O Joe!

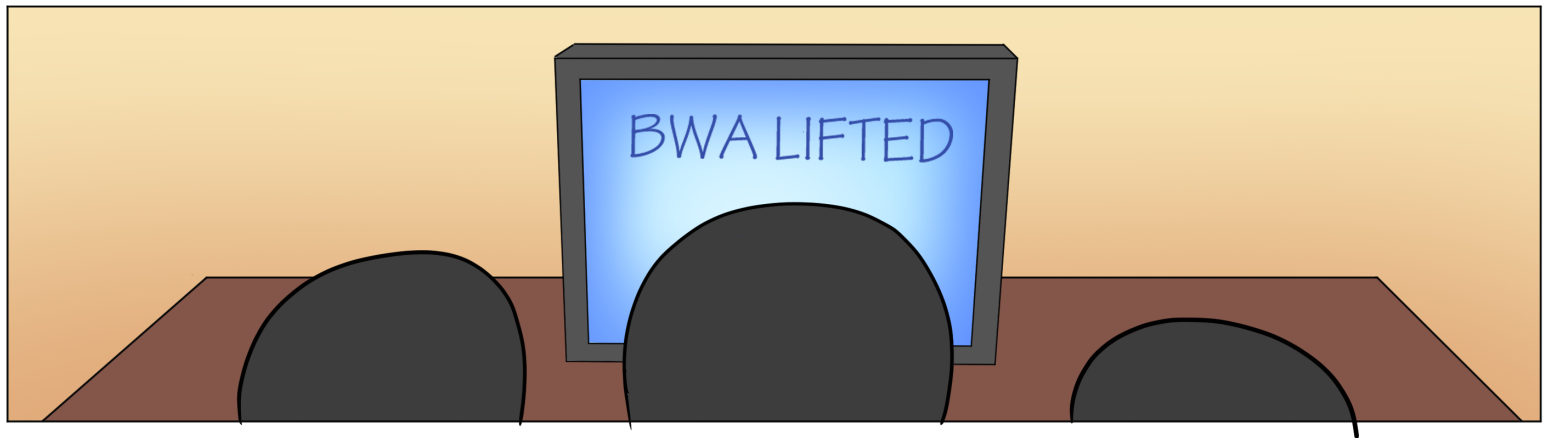
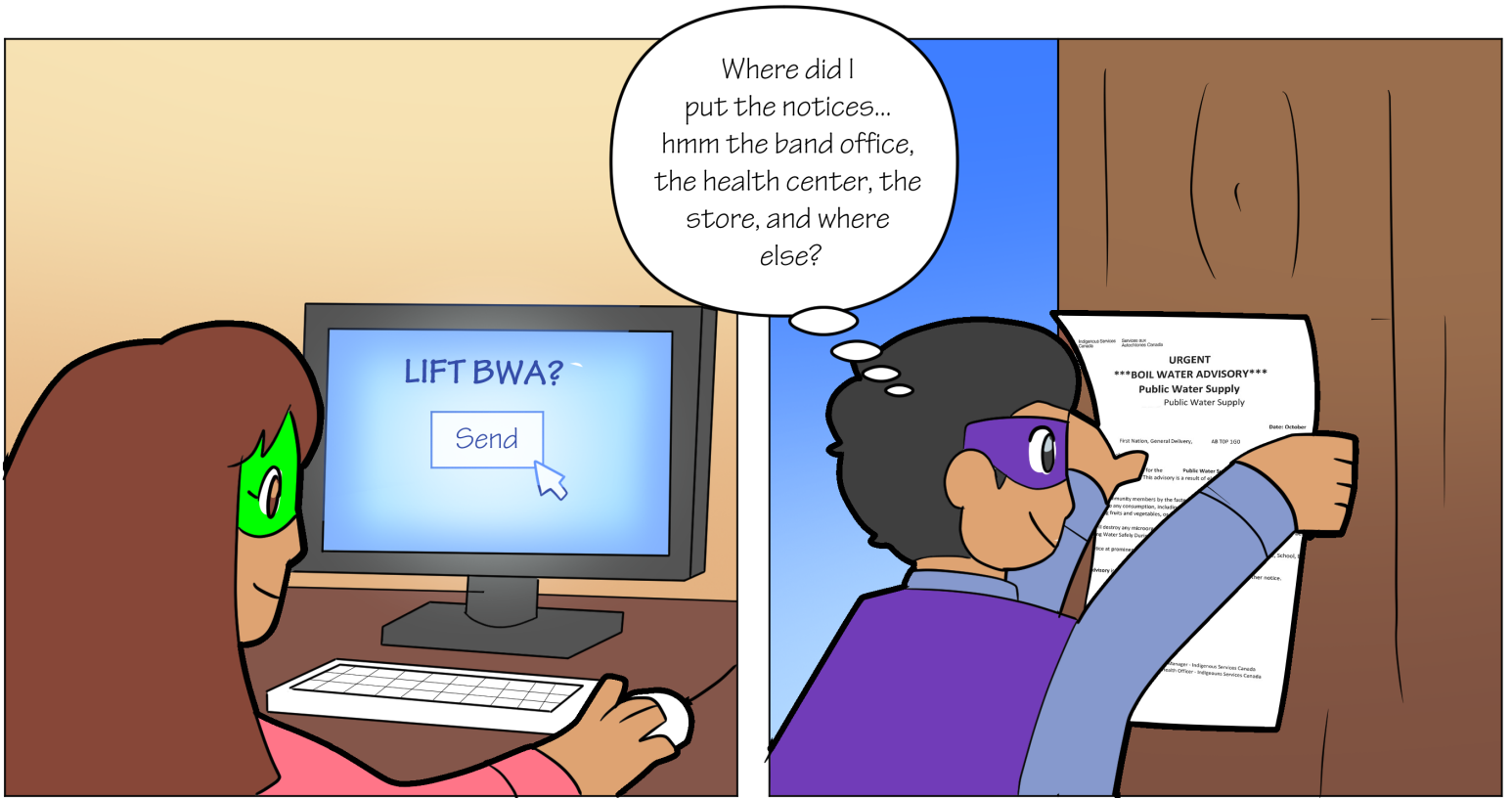
As soon as they are done I will increase the chlorine levels and flush the system. Do you want to come by and see how its done?

That would be great.



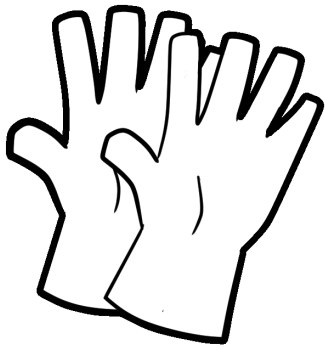






Instructions:

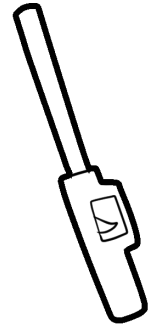
Draw a circle around all the materials that water monitors Mike would have in his bag.



Nitrile Gloves



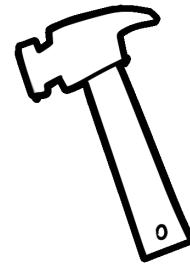
Alcohol Swabs



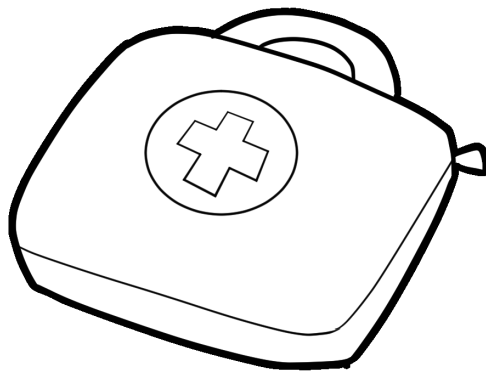
Gas Lighter



Vial



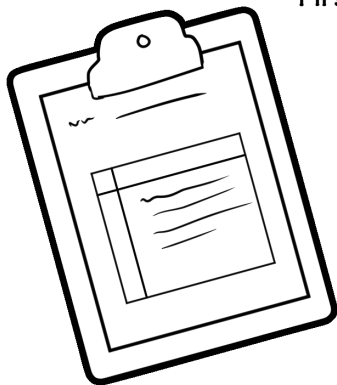
Hammer



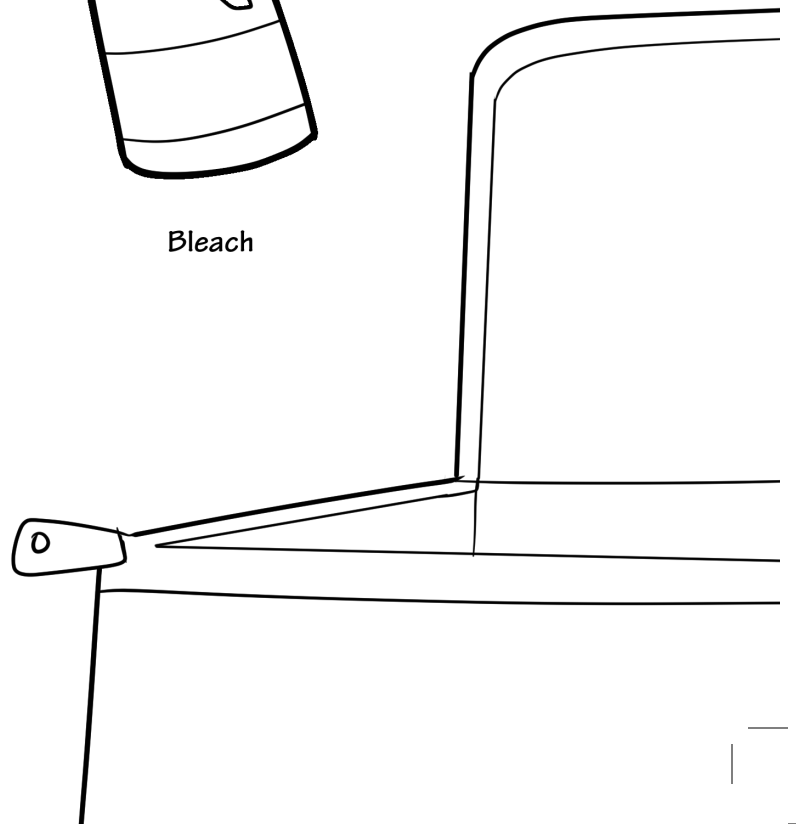
First Aid Kit



Bleach



Field Sampling Data Sheet



Tear-Out Page:
Water Monitor Mike



For Parents and Teachers:

Your water supply is monitored routinely, and there are steps in place to ensure safe drinking water is quite valuable.

Water sampling also tests for turbidity and pH.

The Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality are developed by the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Drinking Water and have been published by Health Canada since 1968.

- Chlorine is the most commonly used drinking water disinfectant. It has been used to disinfect water and make it suitable for drinking for more than 100 years.
- Chlorine has nearly eliminated diseases like typhoid fever, cholera and dysentery in Canada.

To reduce your exposure, you can:

- Ventilate the bathroom when bathing or showering
- Take shorter baths, less than 30 minutes or showers, less than 10 minutes
- Use a pour-over filtration water pitcher for drinking
- Install a filter on your faucet or under your sink
- Consider using water from another source



Canada, Government of Canada; Indigenous Services. "Brochure: Disinfection By-Products in Drinking Water."
" www.sac-isc.gc.ca, 30 July 2019, www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1564493565758/1564493595948.

Page 17 answers:

Nitrile Gloves, Chlorine Testing Kit, Bleach, Vial, Alcohol Swipes, First Aid
Kit, Field Sampling Data Sheet



See you again for the next H2O Hero adventure!