

After a Flood or Storm Event– Your Water Supply



FLOOD: If extensive flooding has occurred or you suspect that the well may be contaminated, **DO NOT** use the water for drinking, handwashing or showering. Use a safe water supply like bottled water until coliform testing can be completed to show your system is free of coliform bacteria. Be advised, other testing may be required if the well has been impacted by fuel or other toxic chemicals. Contact your local health department for specific advice on wells and testing.

IMPORTANT: Water contaminated with fuel or toxic chemicals will not be made safe by boiling or disinfection. Use bottled water or a different source of water if you know or suspect that your water might be contaminated with fuel or toxic chemicals.

Assessment:

For flooding, physical damage or a loss in pressure, perform a visual inspection of your well, spring, or surface water intake and all other pipes and appurtenances which work together to bring water into your household. The things you should be looking for include:

- ~Damage to electrical wires and connectors which supply power to your water system
- ~Damage to above ground PVC pipes used with the well to bring water to your home
- ~Damage to well houses and equipment such as chlorinators, filters, or controls
- ~Damage to sanitary seal or damage to surface water intake structure
- ~Damage to pressure tanks which could have been caused by flooding
- ~Damage to storage tanks, vents and overflow pipes

If any damage is found, you should contact the appropriate licensed contractor or driller to repair the damage.

The water system should be disinfected. Before testing ensure all bleach is flushed from the system - Disinfection instructions: <http://www.mtyhd.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Disinfection-Instructions-1.pdf>

OUT OF WATER- If your source is damaged or no power is available, but you have a usable storage tank, water can be hauled by a licensed vendor

- Sala Bros. – 726-3903 / (3,800 gal tank – call for pricing)
- Water U Want – 442-2482 (~\$1/gallon)

POWER OUTAGE – If you lost pressure due to a power outage, your water system may have become contaminated with bacteria. Until coliform testing can be completed to show your system is free of coliform bacteria, boil your water for at least one minute at a rapid boil before consumption. If the water sample is present for coliform bacteria, the water system needs to be disinfected.

Sampling Instructions: <http://www.mtyhd.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Sampling-Instructions1.pdf>

List of labs: <http://www.mtyhd.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Operator-lablist.pdf>

Flood information: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/drinking/private-drinking-wells.html>

For more information, questions, or concerns please contact Environmental Health Bureau at (831)-755-4507