



# COUNTY OF MONTEREY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Elsa Jimenez, Director of Health

Administration  
Behavioral Health

Clinic Services  
Emergency Medical Services  
Environmental Health/Animal Services

Public Health  
Public Administrator/Public Guardian

RE: POWER OUTAGE

Dear Water System Contact,

The Public Safety Power Shutoff by PG&E is affecting so many in several ways - one of them being small water system wells. If you are on a small water system well and are experiencing water outages or low pressure, you are advised to immediately discontinue any non-essential water use. If your system was impacted, it can compromise the water quality and be a danger to your health and safety. You are receiving this letter since you are the designated contact for your water system and we are trying to assess the status of all systems.

If you lost pressure due to a power outage, your water system may have become contaminated with bacteria. Minimizing your usage of non-essential water will reduce the potential for the water system to lose pressure or run out of water. 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 system exceeds nitrate or arsenic standards, bottled water is required instead of boiling since boiling will only further concentrate the nitrate or arsenic levels.** 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>

If disinfection was necessary, after the process is complete and there is no longer any chlorine in the system, collect a water sample to verify there is no coliform bacteria in the system. Collect the sample in a sterile container from a laboratory. If you use the Monterey County Laboratory at 1270 Natividad Rd in Salinas, a voucher is available for a free sample.

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

If you have any questions, please contact our office at (831) 755-4505 or [sws@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:sws@co.monterey.ca.us).

Sincerely,

Cheryl Sandoval, REHS  
Environmental Health Specialist