

NOTE: This is a living document that may be periodically updated.

Last update: 8/9/2023, 4:15 PM

## **INFORMATION FOR WATER SYSTEMS DURING WILDFIRE EVENTS**

The Department of Health, Safe Drinking Water Branch (SDWB) wants to offer assistance that your water system during and after the emergency, including technical assistance regarding water quality testing and other support you may need.

**DURING the emergency**, SDWB recommends the following:

- **MESSAGING**: the public water system (PWS) should be mindful of messaging. [Here are some tips.](#)
- **ISSUE**: a precautionary Unsafe Water Alert (UWA), where and when appropriate. [A template is provided here.](#) DO NOT ISSUE A BOIL WATER NOTICE.

**AFTER the emergency has passed**, SDWB recommends the following:

- **ASSESS** the damage to your facilities: Are any water lines ruptured/damaged? Tanks drained? Dirty water?
- **INFORM** your customers: Keep the UWA in place until testing verifies the water is safe to drink. You may also ask your customers to conserve water as you re-fill or flush the distribution system.
- **NOTIFY SDWB**: Call SDWB to inform us of any damage and your plan of action.
- **REPAIR**: Make repairs to your water system and increase the chlorine residual.
- **FLUSH**: SDWB recommends flushing your system and providing guidance to customers on how to flush their premise plumbing **as soon as possible. (Check back for updates in this document on sampling plan information)**
- **TEST** the water quality: Test for chlorine residual, VOCs in the distribution system, and take bacteriological samples (Total Coliform and *E. coli*). Coordinate with SDWB. If there are contaminants detected in the system, [issue an updated UWA using this template.](#)
- **LIFT**: Once the above items have been addressed, consult with SDWB to lift the UWA.

After the emergency passes, DOH laboratories will accept emergency samples for testing, if they have the facilities, equipment, and ability to test samples. Please contact the SDWB if you need emergency samples tested due to fire damage.

Main SDWB line, between 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM, (808) 586-4258

Dennis Lopez, SDWB Chief, during and outside regular office hours (808) 342-4642

Joan Corrigan, Acting SDWB Engineering Section Supervisor, technical support (808) 852-9727

Melvin Tokuda, SDWB Monitoring Section Supervisor, sampling support (808) 292-8404