



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – January 23, 2010
Contact: Laura Oxley, ADHS Public Information: (602) 228-7905
Contact: Janey Pearl, ADHS Public Information: (602) 350-4562

Some Rural Arizona Communities Encouraged to Take Water Safety Precautions

Although most water sources in Arizona have not and will not be contaminated by flooding damage by this storm, some areas served by private wells and small water systems may have been affected.

Some small water systems have issued boil water orders. Boil water orders are issued to costumers of water systems when water lines are broken or there is a known contaminant in the water supply. As of January 22, 2010 at 5 pm, there were boil water orders issued in a few communities in Gila and La Paz counties (Beaver Valley, Gisela Water Tanks, Salome/Vicksburg) where water is known or suspected to have been contaminated due to flooding or storm damage.

Contaminated water should not be used for drinking or making ice, cooking or preparing food, or personal hygiene. Water from a known contaminated source should be boiled as boiling is the preferred way to kill harmful bacteria and parasites. Bringing water to a rolling boil for 1 minute will kill most organisms.

When boiling water is not practical, you can treat water with chlorine tablets, iodine tablets, or unscented household chlorine bleach (5.25% sodium hypochlorite). These methods will not kill parasitic organisms.

- If you use chlorine tablets or iodine tablets, follow the directions that come with the tablets.
- If you use household chlorine bleach. Mix the correct amount of bleach thoroughly and let it stand for about 30 minutes before using it.
 - For clear water, add 1/8 teaspoon (~0.75 mL) of bleach per gallon.
 - For cloudy water, add 1/4 teaspoon (~1.50 mL) of bleach per gallon.

Note: Use a 10% bleach solution (9 parts water, 1 part bleach) to rinse water containers before reusing them. Use water storage tanks and other types of containers with caution. For example,

fire truck storage tanks and previously used cans or bottles may be contaminated with microbes or chemicals. Do not rely on untested devices for decontaminating water.

If you use water from a well or cistern and were affected by flood waters, please ensure your water is safe before drinking. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has information on line to help sanitize your well. Please visit <http://www.epa.gov/privatewells/whatdo.html> or you can call the Safe Water Hotline between 10 am and 4 pm Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

For more information, please visit the Arizona Department of Health Services' Web site at www.azdhs.gov.

For the latest information on road conditions and highway closures, visit www.az511.gov, or call 511. Information on storm warnings including links to local response efforts, links to the national weather service, and safety tips can be found at the Arizona Emergency Information Network website at www.azein.gov.

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