



888-395-1033 wellcare® Hotline
www.wellcarehotline.org

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Your Summer Water Well News
From the wellcare® Well Owners Network

**JUNE 1ST MARKED THE START OF
HURRICANE SEASON - LET US HELP YOU
PREPARE!**

With storms already upon us, in this newsletter we are providing tips to help you prepare for any type of storm. From power outages to major flooding, we have your well system covered!

PREPARING YOUR HOME AND FAMILY

First, for insurance purposes take pictures of the inside and outside of your home. You should also take pictures of your cars, boats, shed, pool if you have one, and well head. If you have any well components outside, take pictures of those too. Back up all your important documents on your computer. You can purchase an inexpensive flash drive at any office supply store.

Have water and ice ready. Make sure to have at least 1 gallon of water per person per day for three days. Don't forget your pets! Make your own ice packs or buy bags of ice to make food in your frig and freezer last longer if your power goes out. To make your own ice packs - fill various size Ziploc bags $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water and freeze at least 24 hours in advance.

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Upcoming Events

**Protect Your Groundwater
Day**

September 10, 2013

[Website](#)

**World Water Monitoring
Challenge**

September 18, 2013

[Website](#)

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Follow us on **twitter**

To find out more on
how much water you
use click [here](#).

When preparing for a power outage, buy food that won't perish quickly. Bread, peanut butter, canned goods and fruit cups are all good choices. Think like this - If you can keep it in a cabinet, then it can be purchased to use during power outages. And, while you're at the store pick up batteries; C and D batteries are the most common ones used for flash lights and portable radios. If you don't have a flash light or portable radio, consider purchasing those too.

In case you have to evacuate, pack bags for each family member and keep them close to your front door. Include a change of clothes, medicine, and any special dietary needs. Bring your ID, back up disk as stated earlier, camera with your home photos, home and auto insurance documents, and blankets and pillows.

For more information on preparing for storm, check the following websites:

[ARE YOU READY? AN IN-DEPTH GUIDE TO CITIZEN PREPAREDNESS](#)

Prepare for disaster before it strikes. Individuals, communities, and businesses can plan ahead. Click [here](#) for more information.

Preparing for Power Outages

Are you prepared for a sudden power outage and its impacts on your home and well system? When the electric power supply is interrupted, so is the service provided by your well pump. You will need an alternate source to supply your water.

Great summer tips from EPA to help save energy, fight climate change, and conserve water!

Hot tips for a cool summer!

Save energy this summer and fight climate change. Click [here](#) for tips to reduce energy bills and greenhouse gas emissions.

Landscaping makes WaterSense!

Homeowners or businesses can use WaterSense-labeled controllers for landscape watering. Landscaping water controllers with the WaterSense label meet criteria for efficiency and performance.

Click [here](#) for product information.

Water Storage

A bulk storage or water retention tank can be added to your well system to supply water when the power fails. The tank is usually installed next to your pneumatic water storage tank, which operates on electricity. Water flows continually through the bulk storage tank, so the water is fresh when needed.

Simple gravity allows the storage tank to operate when the power is off. A typical storage tank is made of galvanized steel, carbon steel or fiberglass. It is fitted with a cap at the top to provide air, and a valve at the bottom to drain the water.

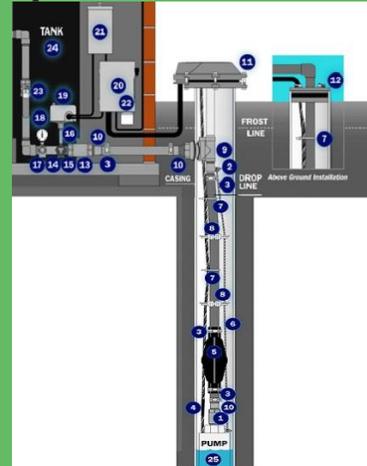
The average family of four uses approximately 320-400 gallons of water each day for all indoor purposes. During an emergency, a family of four can manage on as little as 120 gallons per day, mainly to provide water for drinking and flushing toilets manually. Contact your well professional for more information on installing a storage tank on your water system.

Alternative Power Sources

A gas or diesel-powered electricity generator can keep your well operating in an emergency. You could buy a small portable generator, at an average cost of less than \$1,000, just to operate the submersible pump on your water tank. Or, you could choose to install a full system generator to operate your well, in addition to refrigeration, heating, cooling, and other systems in your home. To determine what size generator you might need, click [here](#).

Well Diagram

(22) Lightning Arrestor - protects pump motor and controls from voltage surges caused by lightning, switching loads, and powerline interference.



Click image to view larger diagram.

Thank you to all the
Volunteers and
Supporters for another
successful Children's
Water Festival!

*Held June 6, 2013 at
Holyoke Community College*

2013 Bay State
Children's Water Festival



Click the image for more information.

Contact your well professional to help you decide what size generator you need and recommend a local dealer in portable and on-site generators.

Take Simple Precautions

If you don't yet have an alternate water or power source in place to cope with power failures, make advance plans to ensure a safe drinking water supply. Try to store at least three gallons of fresh water for each member of your household. Remember to replenish these supplies every three to four months to keep the water fresh. When the power comes back on, let your tap water run for a few minutes to ensure the lines are clear and only fresh water is coming through the system. If the water shows any discoloration, odd odors or other signs of contamination, use an alternative source, and have your water tested and treated before using it again. Floods that lead to power loss can contaminate your well.

Lightning Protection for Your Well System

Because of their intimate contact with water, submersible pumps create a great grounding point for lightning energy. As a result they are notoriously susceptible to lightning damage. Protecting pumps from lightning is a little different from protecting appliances within the home. In addition to surges coming down the utility lines, pumps are bombarded with heavy surges from a variety of directions. Therefore, a pump lightning-protection system is usually done in three layers. The first layer is at the service panel and the second is at the pump controls. Lightning arrestors (as seen in the well diagram)

protects the pump motor and controls from voltage surges caused by lightning, switching loads, and powerline interference. For wells a great distance from the home, pump protection should also be placed at the wellhead. So the third (optional) layer is at the wellhead.

Contact your well professional to assist you with selecting the best option(s) for your well system.

Preparing for Flooding

Moving flood waters or high winds (Tornado or Hurricane force) can carry large debris that could loosen well hardware, dislodge well construction materials or distort casing. Coarse sediment in flood waters could erode pump components. If the well is not tightly capped, sediment, debris, and flood water could enter the well and contaminate it. Wells that are more than 10 years old or less than 50 feet deep are likely to be contaminated, even if there is no apparent damage. Floods or heavy debris may cause some wells to collapse.

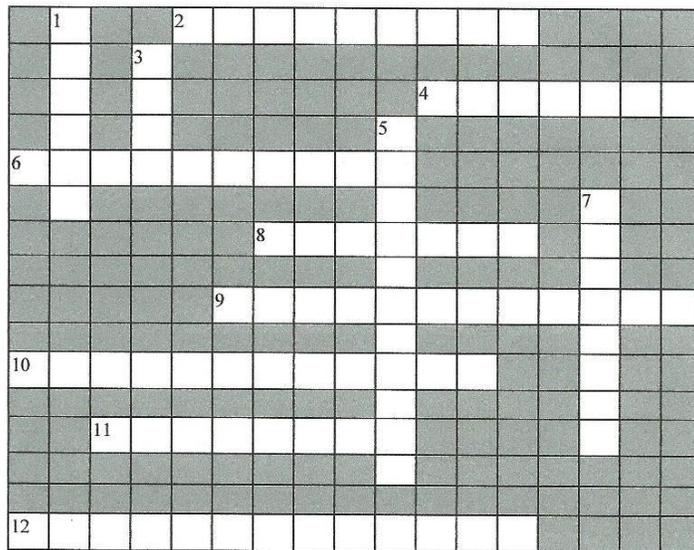
If you haven't already had a well inspection performed, now's the time to do it. Contact your well professional to inspect your well and all its components. During inspection make sure they confirm your well system is up to code and all parts are in good condition. If you are in a flood plain, make sure your well head and any well components are above flood level.

Already experienced flooding? For information on *Managing a Flooded Well*, click [here](#).

Industry News

No news to report at this time. Have a question regarding the water well industry? Contact Water Systems Council [here](#).

Kids Place: IT'S ALL ABOUT SUMMER AND WATER! READ THE CLUES AND SEE IF YOU CAN GUESS THE WORDS FOR EACH DEFINITION. FILL YOUR ANSWERS IN EACH CORRELATING NUMBER BLOCK.



ACROSS

2. Large storm that forms over water
4. A lake-like storage of water in the ground
6. Water that comes from a well
8. Periods of time without rain
9. Lightning storm formed of turbulent weather
10. When you lose electricity
11. To use less
12. Any water above ground

DOWN

1. Hottest season of the year
3. Vertical opening in the ground made by digging or drilling
5. Any water underground
7. Too much water on the ground

Q & A from the wellcare®Hotline

Question: We just experienced heavy rain and now my water is muddy-colored. What should I do?

Answer: First, do not use your water for cooking or drinking until a water test determines the water is safe. It sounds like you could have a crack in the well casing and or the well cap is not properly secured

allowing surface water to enter the well system. It could also be that your well is shallow and the rain water just didn't not have enough time to filter through the layers of soil before entering your water source. In any case, you should have your well system inspected by a local licensed well contractor to make sure all components are in good condition. If everything checks out okay, disinfect your well system and have your water tested as soon as possible.

If you need assistance contact the wellcare® Hotline at 1-888-395-1033.

Click image to be directed to our web page:



Previous newsletters with additional tips can be found [here](#).

WSC has over 80 different wellcare® information sheets that can help you and your family learn more about managing a water well and protecting your water supply. Visit our [website](#) or contact the wellcare® Hotline at 888-395-1033.