



YOUR SUMMER WATER WELL NEWS!

888-395-1033 [wellcare@ Hotline](mailto:wellcare@Hotline)
www.wellcarehotline.org

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Dear Well Owners Network Member,

Hello summer! Spring showers bring May flowers, but it is also the beginning of hurricane season. The official Atlantic hurricane season starts June 1st and ends November 30th. In the eastern North Pacific, the official season begins May 15th and ends November 30th. This newsletter will help you prepare and protect your well and well water for the storm season ahead. As always, if you have questions on any of these topics, the wellcare® Hotline can help. Contact the wellcare® Hotline at 888-395-1033 or wellcarehotline.org.

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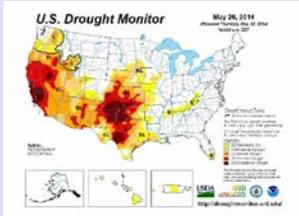
NEW! Emergencies & Disasters

**Drought
Continues
throughout
the U.S.**

Last week launched **National Hurricane Preparedness Week** May 25-31, 2014

Emergencies and disasters do not discriminate and can occur at any time or place. Storm warnings and watches are reported, but it is essential for you and your family to be ready before a storm approaches. The following websites provide important information on how to prepare your home and family for any type of storm:

<http://www.epa.gov/naturaldisasters/>
<http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>



Click the map above to view the conditions in your area.

Water Conservation Tips & Tools

Moderate to severe drought conditions are a fact of life. Many areas face serious regional water shortages because water is being used faster than it can be replenished naturally.

Water conservation can help well owners secure their drinking water supply, save money, and protect the environment. Don't wait until a prolonged drought creates a water emergency. Consider measures today to preserve your water supply far into the future.

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<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/>

NOW AVAILABLE! wellcare® information for you about *Emergencies & Disasters and Wells*

Natural disasters and emergencies such as flood, fire, hurricanes, tornados, and wind storms affect thousands each year. If you are a private well owner, and a natural disaster has occurred on or near your property, there are some things you need to know about your drinking water supply.

Concerns and Advisories

If in doubt about your water supply, follow local or state health department drinking and bathing advisories.

Remember that there is danger of electrical shock from any electrical device that has been flooded; consult a certified electrician. Rubber boots and gloves are not adequate protection from electrical shock.

Septic systems should not be used immediately after floods. Drain fields will not work until underground water has receded. Septic lines may have been broken during flooding or other storms. Contact a local plumber or septic service immediately.

For information on long-term water quality conditions in the area or information on home water treatment devices contact your local or state health department, the wellcare® Hotline at 888-395-1033, or the Water Quality Association (WQA) at 630-505-0160 for assistance.

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Managing a Flooded Well

5 Ways to Save on Water You've Probably Never Thought Of

From Water Use It Wisely

It's no secret that many people are trying to cut down on water consumption. While you're probably familiar with shutting off the faucet while you brush your teeth, and showering instead of using the bathtub (which you may do already), there are a few other ways to save water that you may not have thought of before.

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**wellcare®
Hotline**



Q: How do I get my well water tested?

A: Contact a state certified water testing laboratory in your area. You can

If you live in an area that was recently flooded, your private well may be in danger of contamination from pollutants carried by flood water or at risk of shock from water-logged well equipment.

First Steps

Below is a quick overview of advisories that should be followed after a flood:

- Do not drink or wash with your well water. You could get sick from contaminants washed into the well by the flood.
- Do not turn on the well pump. There is a danger of electrical shock and damage to your well or pump if they were flooded.
- Contact your well professional for help in dealing with the impacts of the flood on your water quality and well system.

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Disinfecting Your Well

Chlorination disinfects your well by destroying unhealthy bacteria and microorganisms and removing dissolved iron, manganese, and hydrogen sulfide. It can be managed easily at home with common household bleach and food grade white vinegar.

Chlorination uses concentrations of chlorine that are 100 to 400 times the amount found in municipal water supplies. The highly chlorinated water is held in the pipes of your well system before it is flushed out and the system is ready again for use.

It is very important to read all cautions and instructions before proceeding with the chlorination procedure.

When to Disinfect Your Well

You should test your water for bacteria each year, usually in the spring, or if there is any change in the taste, color, or odor of your drinking water. Any positive test result requires disinfection.

contact your local or state health department or environmental agency for an up-to-date list of laboratories. The wellcare® hotline can also help you find a state certified laboratory or tell you about test kits you can use to test your water.

For more information on Well Water Testing view our [information sheet](#).

Q: How can I have my water well inspected?

A: Contact a local water well contractor in your area. You can contact your state water well or well driller's association for a referral. The wellcare® Hotline can also help you locate a water well contractor in your area that can perform an inspection.

For more information on Selecting a Well Contractor view our [information sheet](#).

Other well maintenance activities can also threaten your water supply. Disinfect your well when:

- The well is new. Chlorinate before using.
- The well has been repaired, reconstructed, or new pump or pipes have been added to the water system.
- The well has been flooded or exposed to bacterial contamination in another manner, such as a crack in well cap.

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What to Do When the Power Fails

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

Water Storage or Retention Tanks

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 400 gallons of water each day for all indoor purposes, from drinking to washing clothes, and preparing meals. During an emergency, it is recommended to store at least one gallon per person per day for at least three days, mainly to provide water for drinking and flushing toilets manually.

Contact your well professional to discuss what options are available for additional water storage for your home water needs.

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**DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT
YOUR WELL?**

Contact the **wellcare® Hotline** 888-395-1033 or wellcarehotline.org.

Previous newsletters with additional tips can be found [on our website](#).

WSC has over 90 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.

 Forward to a Friend

STAY CONNECTED

