



Dear Well Owners Network Member:

Summer showers bring super-human powers! We see it time and time again after bad weather strikes people come together to help total strangers in need...helping each other out and extending it beyond the storm. This newsletter is also here to help! Full of preparation tips and information on what to do after flooding, hurricanes, wildfires, and other natural disasters.

As always, if you have questions regarding these topics, if you can't find what you're looking for, or if you have any other questions on wells and well water, contact us on the wellcare® Hotline at 888.395.1033, chat with us live, or visit www.wellcarehotline.org.

Wildfires and Wells

If your area has been affected by wildfires, your water well may have been damaged. Our information sheet and this newsletter provides guidance to well owners who have concerns about fire related impacts to their water well system.

Safety Tips for Returning Home After a Wildfire

Returning home after a wildfire can be overwhelming and dangerous. We gathered some safety tips for re-entering a burned area:



- Avoid damaged or fallen power lines.
- Be careful of ash pits (depression filled with hot ashes) and burned trees. Serious burns or injury can occur.
- Wear protective gear before sifting through debris to avoid breathing in harmful dust or ash.
- Hazardous household materials like automotive fluids, paint, solvents, etc. should be disposed of properly to protect people and the environment.
- If you suspect electrical damage or gas leaks, do not try to use your electricity or anything with a flame. Instead, use a flashlight for your light source and report problems to your local utility. DO NOT stay in the home as there is risk of electrical shock or explosion.
- If sewage is visible, limit access to the area and contact your local health department for assistance.

- If you notice damage to your wellhead or well components above ground, do not turn on the water. Contact a licensed well contractor to assess and repair damages.

For more safety tips, [refer to the resources listed on our information sheet](#).

Conditions at the Well

After a wildfire, underground well components like the pump may not be harmed. However, if your home and yard have been burned, it is necessary to complete a visual inspection of your well system and have any damage repaired before turning on the water.

Check the following for damage:

- Wellhead - casing, cap or seal, and any other above ground piping
- Tank - pressure or storage tanks (cisterns)
- Electrical - wires and control box
- Treatment - filters/housing, tanks, chemicals

Contact a licensed well contractor immediately for repairs. Shock chlorination or disinfection should be performed after repairs are made. Your well contractor will determine if this is required. It is important to note that shock chlorination/disinfection will not remove metals, pesticides, or other types of non-biological contamination. Do not drink or cook with the water until a water test is performed and confirms no harmful contaminants are in your water.

If you need assistance locating a licensed well contractor in your area [try our interactive map](#).

Water Treatment & Testing After a Wildfire

Treatment

IMPORTANT!

**DANGER OF
ELECTRICAL SHOCK
MAY OCCUR.**

**DO NOT touch or turn on any
equipment until the wiring system
has been checked by an electrician or
well contractor.**

Water treatment systems may also be damaged from the fire. Contact your water treatment professional to inspect and repair any treatment devices before use. If you need help locating a water treatment professional, the Water Quality Association provides a searchable database on their website at wqa.org/find-providers. Water testing should be performed once the treatment device is back in service. Use an alternative source, such as bottled water, for drinking and cooking until water testing proves the water is safe for all uses.

For information on how to treat water in an emergency situation when bottled water is unavailable, refer to our wellcare® information sheet, [Emergencies & Disasters and Wells](#).

Testing

Once your well system and power have been restored, you may notice the water smells earthy, smoky, or burnt. You should flush your well system thoroughly and have your water tested before use.

Contamination concerns are from chemicals and microorganisms that can enter a damaged well. At a minimum, water testing should consist of ammonia, bacteria, nitrate, PFAS, sulfate, and turbidity. However, you may also consider testing for iron, metals (arsenic, copper, lead, mercury, zinc), pH, phosphorus, and salts (boron, chloride, sodium) as these contaminants are commonly found in well water following wildfire incidents.

Contact your local or state health department to have your water tested or to get a referral to a state certified laboratory that can perform water testing. If you need assistance, contact the wellcare® Hotline at 888-395-1033 or [use our interactive map on our website](#).

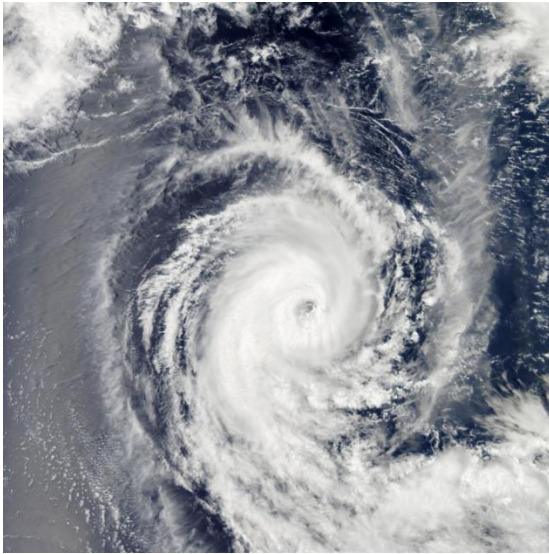
For more information on testing your water, refer to our wellcare® information sheet, [Well Water Testing](#).

Your Septic System After a Wildfire

Most of the functional parts of your septic system are below ground and are usually unharmed by fires. However, it is important to visually inspect your septic system for damage. Check for heat damage to any PVC piping above the ground, settling, or an inability to accept water. If you notice damage or your septic system is not functioning properly, discontinue use and contact your septic service provider for inspection and repair.

If you need assistance locating a professional, check with your local health department or search using these convenient resources: [NOWRA](#) and [NAWT](#).

Hurricane Preparedness



Hurricanes can happen along any US coastal area or any territory in the Atlantic or Pacific oceans and can wreak havoc many miles inland. The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30. The Pacific hurricane season runs May 15 to November 30.

Prepare your family and home before disaster strikes! Helpful resources can be found at the following links:

[American Red Cross](#)
[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
[National Hurricane Center](#)
[National Weather Service](#)
[Ready.gov](#)

Emergencies, Disasters & Wells

The US has already been affected by major flooding and other disasters this year. Forecasters are expecting to have another active storm season. Now that you are prepped for the upcoming weather, [here's what you need to know after a natural disaster has occurred](#).

We also have a dedicated web page that provides everything you need to get your life back in order. [Check out our Emergencies page!](#)

Well Financing

If your well has been damaged and is in need of repair or if you need a new well, there are some financing options available.

National Ground Water Association (NGWA) has developed a [video to help homeowners](#) explore options for financing needed well construction or maintenance in ways that fit their needs.

The video covers financing options including:

- Contractor-offered financing
- Credit cards
- Mortgage options
- Home equity improvement loans
- Lines of credit
- Government long-term, low-interest loans.



For more information on wells and well financing contact the wellcare® Hotline at 888-395-1033 or info@wellcarehotline.org.

Drilling a Well

STOP! All private well construction is based on establishing the right location for the well, sizing the system correctly, and choosing the proper construction techniques. Wells should only be drilled or repaired by licensed professionals. If you need help locating a licensed well contractor in your area [try our interactive map](#). Our information sheet, [Selecting a Well Contractor](#), may also be helpful.

Whether you are drilling a new well or replacing an old well, there are some things you need to know to get the best water quality and supply for your home and family.

Well Construction Standards

Most states have well construction standards for drilling private water wells. These regulations are designed to protect the integrity of your water supply. Proper well construction is the key to operating and maintaining your well. The initial cost of a properly constructed well may be somewhat higher. However, in the long run, a properly constructed well results in improved efficiency, less maintenance, and longer well life. You should familiarize yourself with these standards and check with your local Health Department to see if there are any local codes. Licensed well contractors should drill the well according to these standards. [Visit our website to search your state's well codes](#).

Location, location, location!

Well contractors use their experience and expertise to locate the well on your property that is suited to your lot size, the location of existing structures, and utilities and the most likely location for a good supply of



Photo courtesy of the [Water Well Trust](#)

water. It is also a good idea to do your homework. Note that old wells should be sealed according to your local/state codes to prevent cross contamination to your new well. Check with your local health department, your state's environmental agency or groundwater association, and the [US Geological Survey](#) for average depth of wells in your area, water levels, and if there are any potential contamination concerns. Discuss any concerns with your well contractor before drilling.

Sizing

Proper sizing is critical to the construction and performance of your well system. Your system is designed to suit the needs of your household. Factors considered when sizing your system include such things as number of bathrooms, bedrooms and occupants, and anticipated water use for extras such as swimming pools, irrigation, spas or whirlpool baths. For existing homes, make sure to discuss any renovations or additions with your well contractor.

[Read about the common drilling methods used to construct private wells](#), [sizing a well pump](#), [sizing a pressure tank](#), and [more!](#)

If you have additional questions on having a well drilled contact your licensed well contractor or the wellcare® Hotline at 888-395-1033 or info@wellcarehotline.org.



Still Have Questions?

We can help! Call the wellcare® Hotline at 888-395-1033, [complete an online form](#), [send us an email](#), or [chat with us live!](#) Hablamos español también!

STAY CONNECTED:

