



COUNTY OF MONTEREY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Wildfire Recovery & Rebuilding

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH BUREAU

Drinking Water for Temporary Residences and Rebuilds

The following information identifies what the Monterey County Environmental Health Bureau (EHB) will require for drinking water sources before EHB can approve placement of Temporary Residences and Construction Permits for rebuilding fire-damaged structures.

Hazardous conditions may exist due to damaged electrical lines and damaged water infrastructure such as wells, storage tanks, pressure tanks, booster pumps, etc. Prior to handling any water infrastructure, please consult a licensed contractor to evaluate the safety of existing infrastructure. Also, ensure appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) is worn.

- **What will EHB require prior to authorizing placement of temporary residence?**
 - Three options are available:
 - 1) Agreement for temporary tank and hauled water, secured by a service contract; **OR**
 - 2) Connect to the previous water infrastructure once the following actions have been completed:
 - a. Confirmation that the water distribution system is intact from a qualified professional (power to pump, flowing water to the site)
 - b. Negative bacteriological testing of water collected from a tap on the site
 - c. Water system infrastructure that was exposed to high heat may leach contaminants such as Volatile Organic Compounds/VOCs. EHB recommends VOC testing especially for PVC infrastructure that was exposed to high heat during pressure loss; **OR**
 - 3) Connect to an alternate well source:
 - a. Confirmation that the water distribution system is intact from a qualified professional (power to pump, flowing water to the site)
 - b. Negative bacteriological testing of water collected from a tap on the site
 - c. Water system infrastructure that was exposed to high heat may leach contaminants such as Volatile Organic Compounds/VOCs. EHB recommends VOC testing especially for PVC infrastructure that was exposed to high heat during pressure loss.
 - d. Testing for additional contaminants of concern:
 - Nitrate (any well source throughout County)
 - Fluoride (Cachagua only)
- **What will EHB require prior to approval of construction permit for previously permitted structures?**
 - 1) Reconnect to existing, **permitted** source of water:
 - a. Water distribution system intact (power to pump, flowing water to site)
 - b. No source capacity testing required
 - c. Negative bacteriological testing
 - d. Water system infrastructure that was exposed to high heat may leach contaminants such as Volatile Organic Compounds/VOCs. EHB recommends VOC testing especially for PVC infrastructure that was exposed to high heat during pressure loss.



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- e. Sources that are surface water (such as creek intakes) or groundwater under the direct influence of surface water/GWUDI, please consult the EHB for any additional testing that may be needed due to use of fire retardants near surface waters.

2) Reconnect to an existing, **unpermitted** water system:

- a. Water distribution system intact (power to pump, flowing water to site)
- b. May require source capacity based on project specific conditions or project specific assessment
- c. Primary and Secondary water quality analysis
- d. Negative bacteriological
- e. Water system infrastructure that was exposed to high heat may leach contaminants such as Volatile Organic Compounds/VOCs. EHB recommends VOC testing especially for PVC infrastructure that was exposed to high heat during pressure loss.
- f. Sources that are surface water (such as creek intakes) or groundwater under the direct influence of surface water/GWUDI, please consult the EHB for any additional testing that may be needed due to use of fire retardants near surface waters.
- g. Apply for water system permit – subject to WS application fee (no penalties) – and submit all necessary information.

If water quality standards are not met, notification and bottled water will be acceptable, but system will need to work towards compliance.

- **What will EHB require prior to approval of construction permit for previously unpermitted structures:**

- a. Water distribution system intact (power to pump, flowing water to site)
- b. May require source capacity based on project specific conditions or project specific assessment
- c. Primary and Secondary water quality analysis
- d. Negative bacteriological
- e. Water system infrastructure that was exposed to high heat may leach contaminants such as Volatile Organic Compounds/VOCs. EHB recommends VOC testing especially for PVC infrastructure that was exposed to high heat during pressure loss.
- f. Sources that are surface water (such as creek intakes) or groundwater under the direct influence of surface water/GWUDI, please consult the EHB for any additional testing that may be needed due to use of fire retardants near surface waters.
- g. If water quality standards are not met, treatment will be required.
- h. If the structure will connect to an unpermitted water system:
 - a. Apply for water system permit – subject to WS application fee (no penalties) – and submit all necessary information.

Any chemical, material, lubricant, or product used in the production, treatment, or distribution of drinking water shall have been tested and certified as meeting the specifications of American National Standard Institute/NSF International (ANSI/NSF) 61-2005/Addendum 1.0-2006 (Drinking Water System Components – Health Effects) or a more recent version of ANSI/NSF 61.