










When Disaster Strikes

How to Keep Your Well Water Safe

This is only a guide to common dangers. Always call your local officials or emergency services if you have questions.

In an emergency that can affect your well, always use bottled water or water that is brought in by officials from a known, safe source.

NATURAL DISASTER	DANGERS	WHAT YOU SHOULD DO
Fire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemicals from melted plastic and firefighting foam Damage to well or system parts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write it down if plastic melts or firefighting foam is used nearby.
Flood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contamination from septic systems or sewage Damage to well or system parts Loose sand or dirt gets into the well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not walk through flood waters. Do not touch any electrical equipment or downed power lines. Let all faucets run for five minutes to flush after the water level has returned to normal.
Power Lines Down 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Power outages Electric shock Electrical fire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay indoors until the line is repaired. Do not touch any electrical equipment or downed power lines. Write it down if firefighting foam is used nearby.
Hurricane 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damage to well or system parts Power outages Flooding Debris in or around well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay indoors until emergency officials say it is safe to go outside. Follow flood steps (above) if flooded.
Winter Storm/Blizzard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frozen or broken pipes Power outages Flooding from snow melt Salt contamination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not use ice melt around your well. Do not use space heaters to warm or thaw your pipes.
Tornado 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Power outages Damage to well or system parts Debris in or around well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay indoors until emergency officials say it is safe to go outside.
Earthquake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extremely high or low water levels Power outages Damage to well or system parts Loose sand or dirt in well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not drink severely discolored water. Stay indoors until emergency officials say it is safe to go outside.