

FACT SHEET:

Department of Health Issues Precautions for Drinking Water

Should the community be put on a boil water notice due to anticipated flooding from tropical storms and hurricanes, the Florida Department of Health (DOH) advises you to take precautions against contaminated water. After a storm, your water may contain disease-causing organisms and may not be safe to drink. This is especially important for individuals with private wells.

DOH recommends one of the following:

- Boil the water before drinking, keeping it at a rolling boil for one minute;
- Disinfect water by adding eight drops (1/8 teaspoon) of unscented household bleach per gallon of water, and then let the water stand for 30 minutes. If the water is cloudy after 30 minutes, repeat the procedure; or
- Use bottled water for drinking.

For homes using well water, after the floodwaters subside:

- Disinfect your well using the procedures available from your local health department, or provided on the MyFlorida web page at:
<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/water/manual/floodinf.htm>; and
- Have your water tested by your local health department, or by a laboratory certified by the State to do drinking water analyses.

For further information, please contact your local county health department.