



**FRESNO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION**

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PROCEDURES FOR FLOODED WELLS

If your domestic well may have been flooded, bottled water should be used for drinking, cooking and brushing teeth until the well has been properly disinfected. As an alternative, the well water may be boiled for 3 minutes at a full, rolling boil before use. If there is noticeable dirt in the water, it should be strained through a clean cloth before boiling.

When the flood waters have receded, your well should be pumped until it is clear, with no silt or other dirt.

Disinfecting the well can be done with ordinary household chlorine bleach. For the typical well serving a family home, two gallons of bleach is ample. The bleach should be poured into the well and allowed to stand for about 30 minutes to permit the chlorine to settle in the well. The pump should then be turned on and off to thoroughly mix the disinfectant with the water in the well.

The farthest taps from the well should then be opened and allowed to run until the chlorine can be smelled in the water coming from the tap.

The well should then be allowed to stand without pumping for 24 hours.

Pump the well to waste until there is no longer any color or odor of chlorine in the water. The farthest taps should also be run until there is no more chlorine odor and the water runs clear.

Following the chlorination and flushing procedure, the well should be operated normally for at least 24 to 48 hours and then the water should be tested for bacteriological quality at a state-certified laboratory.

The well head should be inspected for any openings into the well which would allow the entry of flood waters into the well and all such defects should be properly repaired.