



## **NEWS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release*

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### **New Mexico Environment Department and New Mexico Department of Health Issue “Precautionary Water Advisories” for Public Water Systems Impacted by Hermits Peak and Calf Canyon Fire Complex**

**SAN MIGUEL & MORA COUNTIES** – The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau confirms a precautionary water advisory is required for the following public water systems located in San Miguel and Mora Counties:

<b>System Name</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Population Served</b>
Pendaries MDWCA	San Miguel	500
Pendaries RV Resort	San Miguel	320
Mike Mateo Elementary School	San Miguel	50
Camp Blue Haven	San Miguel	150
El Porvenir Christian Camp	San Miguel	175
Buena Vista MDWCA	San Miguel	225
Cleveland MDWCA	Mora	270
Mora Inn & RV	Mora	75
Ledoux MDWCA	Mora	168
Mora MDWCA	Mora	1,100
South Holman MDWCA	Mora	35
Agua Negra MDWCA	Mora	242
Upper Holman MDWCA	Mora	325
San Antonio de Cleveland MDWCA	Mora	269
North Cleveland MDWCA	Mora	82

NMED has issued the precautionary water advisory as a result of direct impact or reported widespread power outages caused by the Hermits Peak and Calf Canyon Fire Complex. NMED is recommending all consumers of these water systems seek an alternate source of drinking water to ensure the protection of public health. **Residents returning to these areas as evacuation orders are lifted should follow the advice in this advisory until further notice provided by their public water system or NMED.**

At this time, this Precautionary Water Advisory applies only to the drinking water from the systems noted above and does not extend to any other surrounding water systems.

In addition to the Precautionary Advisory for the public water systems, the New Mexico Department of Health recommends private well owners follow these tips when you can do so safely, to help protect your health and respond after a wildfire:

- Step 1: Well inspection and repair – check for damage to well components, including electrical systems, and remove debris.
- Step 2: Flush the well until the water runs clear (approximately 30 minutes to one hour) and check water pressure. This may best be done by a well contractor.
- Step 3: Test your well water for Coliform bacteria including E. coli, nitrate, other contaminants of concern.
- Step 4: Disinfect your well if water tests positive for bacteria (E. coli) or repairs were done. This may best be done by a well contractor.

Well owners should have their well water tested at a certified drinking water laboratory to be sure contamination has not occurred. At a minimum, water should be tested for bacterial contamination. If well piping (PVC or HDPE) is damaged, tests should include volatile organic compounds (VOC's) such as BTEX. A list of certified labs is available [here](#).

In New Mexico, private wells are not regulated, which means residents are responsible for ensuring the quality of their drinking water. Well owners can learn more about protecting their drinking water supply and health before, during and after a disaster [here](#).

Burn scars may leave an area more vulnerable to flash flooding, which could impact drinking water sources. Private well owners are encouraged to take precautions to prepare for floods.

Residents are encouraged to continue implementing water conservation efforts in all areas impacted by wildfires.

NMED will continue to monitor the Hermits Peak and Calf Canyon Fire Complex and provide compliance oversight and offer technical assistance to public water systems that may be affected by this ongoing emergency.

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