



STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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State provides additional information on “Precautionary Water Advisory” for public water systems impacted by wildfires

San Miguel & Mora Counties – The New Mexico Environment Department confirms a Precautionary Water Advisory is in place for the following public water systems located in San Miguel and Mora Counties:

System Name	County	Population Served
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 issued the advisory as a result of power outages or direct effects to drinking water operations caused by the Hermits Peak and Calf Canyon Fire Complex. At this time, NMED recommends all customers of these public 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 guidance in this advisory until further notice is provided by their public water system or NMED.**

The state is coordinating efforts to bring drinking water to affected communities for use until assessments are complete. The first delivery is expected to arrive in the reopened communities by tomorrow.

Extreme heat and power outages that result in drinking water sitting in pipes can result in contamination from E. coli and other bacteria. NMED staff are coordinating closely with the water system operators and the New Mexico Rural Water Association to assess systems as quickly as possible for potential infrastructure damage that could affect water quality and safety. Affected residents will be informed as soon as their water is determined to be safe for drinking. Assessments involve inspecting equipment and

facilities, as well as collecting and analyzing water samples to ensure that drinking water is safe. Individual assessments could take several days to complete once inspectors are able to safely gain access to a facility.

Water from these systems can be used for other activities, such as washing clothes and dishes, showering, and general nondrinking uses. Use caution when bathing infants and young children. Consider giving them a sponge bath to reduce the chance of them swallowing water. People who are immunocompromised/immunosuppressed, and/or have open cuts, wounds, or sores should not use the water to bathe until notified that the water is safe.

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.

Impacted consumers of the listed public water systems may direct questions about this advisory or the status of their water system's assessment to Wayne Jeffs, Drinking Water Bureau Northern Area Supervisor, at 505-469-7457 or wayne.jeffs@state.nm.us.



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