



Okaloosa County News Release

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Update: April Rain Event #5

Okaloosa County Rain Event Update #5: *Includes Health Department Advisories*

Okaloosa County, Fla. – The Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County is issuing a health advisory for the following waters of Okaloosa County:

- Tom's Bayou and Boggy Bayou along Bayshore Drive in Valparaiso
- Santa Rosa Sound in Fort Walton Beach in the following areas: Brooks Street SE and Hood Avenue SE, and area west of Saint Mary Avenue, SW and Highway 98
- Choctawhatchee Bay in Destin: Clement E. Taylor Park, Joe's Bayou/Coleman Kelly Lake
- 549 Clifford St., Fort Walton Beach, lift station overflowed into storm drain that discharges into an unnamed lake south of Clifford.
- 639 Beal Parkway, Fort Walton Beach, lift station overflowed into Gap Creek (west end of Cinco Bayou).

The Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County advises against swimming, boating or other significant contact with waterways in these areas until further notice. Due to the heavy rainfall sewer treatment plants have been overwhelmed by the intrusion of storm water. The spill entering waterways contain storm water and raw sewage contaminants. The Health Department continues to work with local utilities in the county to monitor water quality. Sampling is currently being done in these areas and the advisories will be lifted when samples return to normal levels.

The following precautionary Boil Water Notices have been issued in Okaloosa County:

- Unincorporated Okaloosa County, north: All customers on Shoal River Dr. from its intersection with Live Oak Church Rd. to its intersection with Scenic Ct., also including customers on: Pinnacle Point Dr., Top Flight Dr., Titleist Ln., Dunlop Ln., Ram Ln., Ultra Ln., Wilson Ln., Ping Ln., Macgregor Ln., and Hogan Ln.
- All customers on Antioch Rd., from its intersection with Hwy 90 (including 1992 James Lee Blvd) to its intersection with Arena Rd., also including customers on: Gladway Dr., GMC Ln., Lacey Ln., Jerry Ln., Golf Course Dr., Country Club Dr., Fairway Dr., Par Ct., Wedgewood Ct., Eagle Dr., Orlimar St., Traxx St., Titanium Dr., and Leyland Ln.
- Auburn Water System (AWS) has issued a mass boil water notice to all customers who have experience loss of water or low water since 11 p.m., on April 29, 2014. AWS advises affected customers to bring your water to a rolling boil before consuming. AWS will notify customers when the boil water notice has been lifted.

As a precaution, the Florida Department of Health, Okaloosa County, advises that all water used for drinking, cooking, making ice, brushing teeth, or washing dishes be boiled. A rolling boil of one minute is sufficient. As an alternative, bottled water may be used. Residents are also advised to take precautions when bathing, especially immune-compromised individuals, infants, or the elderly.

Residents are urged to be cautious and only travel if absolutely necessary. Please stay tuned to local news updates, Okaloosa County website at www.okaloosafli.com and follow us on Facebook (Okaloosa Co. Public Safety) and Twitter @OKALOOSAEOC. For more information or assistance, please call our citizens information line 311.

-more detailed list of Health Risks-

April Rain Event #5

Additional, Detailed Information for Health Risk following a flood event:

Power Outages: Preventing Fire Hazards

- . Using battery-powered lanterns and flashlights is preferred.
- . NEVER use candles.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR WELL IS FLOODED

Heavy rainfall from a tropical storm or hurricane may have made your well water unsafe. If you are unsure about the impact of flooding on your well water, use bottled water, boil or disinfect all the water you use for drinking, making beverages or ice, cooking, brushing your teeth, washing dishes, and washing areas of the skin that have been cut or injured.

Bring water to a rolling boil for one minute and cool before use. Common unscented household bleach (4 to 6 percent active ingredient) can be used effectively as a chlorine disinfectant. Disinfect the water by adding 8 drops (about 1/8 teaspoon) of unscented household bleach per gallon of water, and then let it stand for 30 minutes. Repeat the procedure if the water is still cloudy.

If your well has been flooded, please call 850-689-7859 for information on how to sample your water and where to bring the sample for bacterial testing. If the test reveals bacteria, the well and water system need to be disinfected.

It is important to disinfect both well and plumbing water with unscented household bleach to make sure all infectious organisms are destroyed. If you have water treatment devices, remove all membranes, cartridges, and filters and replace them after the chlorination process is completed. The amount of chlorine determines the length of time you allow the bleach to remain in your system.

DOH recommends the following steps to disinfect a contaminated well:

- . If the water is discolored before adding the bleach, run the water until it is clear for up to 10 minutes.
- . Turn off and then drain your hot water heater; bleach is not effective in water above 105 degrees.
- . Remove and replace charcoal filters after the disinfecting process is completed.
- . To avoid adding contamination to the well during disinfection, clean the work area around the top of the well. Then remove grease and mineral deposits from accessible parts of the well head and flush the outside surfaces with 1/2 cup of unscented household bleach in 5 gallons of water.

Food Safety: Preventing Foodborne Diseases

- . People should not eat any food that may have come into contact with contaminated water from floods or tidal surges.
- . Commercially prepared cans of food should not be eaten if there is a bulging or opening on the can or screw caps, soda bottle tops or twist-caps.
- . Undamaged, commercially canned foods can be saved if labels are removed and cans are disinfected in a bleach solution. Use 1/4 cup of bleach in 1 gallon of water; re-label the cans including expiration date and type of food. Assume that home-canned food is unsafe.
- . Infants should preferably be breast fed or fed only pre-mixed canned baby formula. Do not use powdered formulas prepared with untreated water, use boiled water instead.
- . When the power is out, refrigerators will keep foods cool for approximately 4 hours. Thawed and refrigerated foods should be thrown out after 4 hours.

Sanitation and Hygiene: Preventing Waterborne Illness

- . Basic hygiene is very important during this emergency period. Always wash your hands with soap and water. Use only water that has been boiled or disinfected for washing hands before eating, after toilet use, after helping in cleanup activities and after handling items contaminated by floodwater or sewage.
- . Flood water may contain fecal matter from sewage systems, agricultural and industrial waste and septic tanks. If you have open cuts or sores exposed to the floodwater, keep them as clean as possible by washing them with soap and disinfected or boiled water.
- . Apply antibiotic cream to reduce the risk of infection. If a wound or sore develops redness, swelling or drainage, see a physician.
- . Do not allow children to play in floodwater. They can be exposed to water contaminated with fecal matter.
- . Do not allow children to play with toys that have been in floodwater until the toys have been disinfected. Use 1/4 cup of bleach in 1 gallon of water to disinfect toys and other items.

Post Flood Clean-up

- . Clean up debris carefully to avoid injury and contamination.
- . Chainsaws should only be operated in safe conditions (not in water soaked areas) and by people who are experienced in proper use.
- . Lift heavy debris by bending knees and using legs to help lift.
- . Wear shoes to avoid injury to the feet from glass, nails or other sharp objects.
- . Avoid contact with downed power lines.
- . Be alert to wildlife (snakes, alligators, etc.) that may have been displaced as a result of the flood or storm. If you see a snake or other wildlife, back away from it slowly and do not touch it. If the snake is in your home, immediately call the animal control agency in your county.

FLOODING/STORMS CAN CAUSE PROBLEMS WITH SEWAGE SYSTEMS

Following a storm, you may experience problems with the operation of your sewage system. If you have a septic system that runs by a dosing pump, it will not work without electricity. You should stop using water in your home as much as possible until the electricity comes back on. Without the pump working, the septic tank will fill and may cause backup of sewage in your home.

General precautions:

- . Do not let children play in flood waters, as these waters may be contaminated by sewage.
- . If you live in a low-lying or flood-prone area, the ground in your area may be soaked from heavy rainfalls or flooding from the hurricane. You should use household water as little as possible to prevent backup of sewage into your home

What should I do if sewage backs up into my home?

- . If a sewage backup has happened in your home, stay out of affected areas and keep children away. If your entire home has been soaked, abandon the home until all affected areas, including but not limited to carpets, rugs, sheetrock, drywall and baseboards, have been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
- . If sewage has overflowed in open areas or streets avoid these areas and do not let children play in these areas.
- . If you are having problems in areas served by public sewer systems, please contact your utility company to make sure they are aware of problems in your area.
- . If your septic tank backs up, **DO NOT PUMP YOUR SEPTIC TANK**. Pumping septic tank may result in damage to your system. Owners are advised to only pump their septic tank after the ground water has receded.

For more information, please contact your county health department or visit www.healthykaloosa.com.