



PRESS RELEASE

BOIL WATER NOTICE

UPPER SAGE MESA WATER SYSTEM USERS
(Sandstone, Westwood, Husula)

May 6th, 2017

In response to the recent rain events and the resulting large flow of wood debris that has been observed on the south west side of Okanagan Lake, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen is issuing a precautionary Boil Water Notice to the Upper Zone of the Sage Mesa water system. This debris has entered Okanagan Lake from the fast flowing creeks that feed the lake and it is expected that turbidity levels will increase significantly over the next couple of days. Please note, the Lower Zone of Sage Mesa was placed on the annual Boil Water Notice on Friday May 5th. Along with the Lower Zone Boil Water Notice, this Notice will remain in effect until further notice.

Residents are advised to use a safe alternate source of water or to boil water for all drinking, oral hygiene and food preparation/cooking purposes. Water should be brought to a full boil and allowed to boil for at least 1 minute to reduce the risk of infection from pathogens that may be found in the water.

There are three main types of pathogens (micro-organisms) that pose risks to human health in drinking water; viruses, bacteria and protozoa. The Sage Mesa system has only one level of treatment, the addition of chlorine. Chlorine can target viruses and bacteria however with insufficient contact times and increased turbidity these organisms have the potential to remain viable in the water. Protozoa are organisms such as *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium*. *Giardia* can be partially inactivated by chlorine however again with insufficient contact times and increased turbidity these organisms can remain viable. *Cryptosporidium* on the other hand cannot be inactivated by chlorine and needs to be removed by either filtration or inactivated with additional treatment processes such as ultraviolet light which are currently not in place.

The RDOS would also like to remind all business owners/operators (bed and breakfasts) and public facilities operators that it is the responsibility of said establishments to notify their customers of the Boil Water Notice.

For further information, please contact the Public Works Department at (250) 490-4106 or (250) 490-4135.

Thank you for your cooperation.

May 6, 2017
RDOS Public Works Department

Send an email to info@rdos.bc.ca and remember to include your name and address to receive future email notifications.