



BOIL WATER NOTICE RESCINDED

LOWER SAGE MESA WATER SYSTEM USERS

December 11, 2018

Under the direction of the Interior Health Authority, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) is rescinding the annual **Boil Water Notice** that has been in effect for the following areas (Lower Zone) of the Sage Mesa water system:

- **Ladera Place**
- **Pine Hills Drive**
- **Sage Mesa Drive**
- **Solana Crescent**
- **Verano Place**

The RDOS wants to remind residents affected by this Boil Water Notice that the Interior Health Authority has provided direction to the RDOS that this Boil Water Notice is to be in place annually during times of peak flow due to insufficient treatment, typically July through October. These measures will be required until system upgrades are made to satisfy the Provincial Drinking Water Treatment Objectives. The RDOS will notify residents again in 2019 prior to the reissuing of this Boil Water Notice.

Water Quality Background

In 2012, the IHA provided direction to the RDOS that a Boil Water Notice would be required to be in place seasonally during times of high flows for the lower portion of the Sage Mesa water system. This decision was based on the review of engineering studies that concluded that there is insufficient contact time between the water and the chlorine before reaching the first customers (the lower portion of the system) during times of high flows. As a result, there is the potential for inadequate pathogen reduction for the water supplied to these properties.

The Sage Mesa water system has only one level of treatment, the addition of chlorine. Chlorine can be effective against bacteria and viruses if there is adequate time for the chlorine to work.

- During the summer months, when demand is high, there is insufficient time for chlorine to be effective in the lower zone.
- High amounts of turbidity (cloudiness) of water can shield micro-organisms from the chlorine.
- When water is cold, additional time is needed for chlorine to be effective against *Giardia*.
- *Cryptosporidium* is very resistant to chlorine.

Potential Water Quality Risks

There are three main types of pathogens (micro-organisms) that pose risks to human health in surface water drinking sources; 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 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.

How to Protect Yourself

People with weakened immune systems may wish to take additional precautions, see the attached HealthLinkBC document, [Preventing Water-Borne Infections for People with Weakened Immune Systems](#). For further information on protecting yourself, please contact the Interior Health Authority.

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

Thank you for your cooperation.

RDOS Public Works Department

If you would like to have your email address added for water system notifications please submit your email address to the RDOS. Send an email to info@rdos.bc.ca and remember to include your name and civic address.

Also Civic Ready is here.!

Be Safe—Be Informed—Be Involved In Your Community

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT RDOS WATER SYSTEM NOTIFICATIONS

	<p>To ensure the residents and property owners of the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen are safe, informed and up-to-date with community activities, the RDOS has implemented a mass communication service called <i>CivicReady</i>. This system allows the RDOS to communicate out routine and emergency messages through email, text and/or phone call.</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><u>Routine Notifications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Community Events</i> • <i>Water & Sewer System Alerts</i> • <i>Curbside Pick Up & Landfill Hours</i> • <i>Regional Recreation</i> • <i>Land Use Changes</i> • <i>And More....</i> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><u>Emergency Notifications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>EOC Updates</i> • <i>Sandbag Pick-Up Locations</i> • <i>ESS Locations</i> • <i>Wildfire Updates</i> • <i>Dangerous Animals in the Area</i> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><u>Routine Notifications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Community Events</i> • <i>Water & Sewer System Alerts</i> • <i>Curbside Pick Up & Landfill Hours</i> • <i>Regional Recreation</i> • <i>Land Use Changes</i> • <i>And More....</i> 	<p><u>Emergency Notifications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>EOC Updates</i> • <i>Sandbag Pick-Up Locations</i> • <i>ESS Locations</i> • <i>Wildfire Updates</i> • <i>Dangerous Animals in the Area</i>
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<p>To sign up or learn more about CivicReady go to: www.rdos.bc.ca & look for the alarm button or sign up link on the right-hand side</p>				

After-hours water emergencies call Regional Dispatch at 250-490-4141.