



PRESS RELEASE

BOIL WATER NOTICE

LOWER SAGE MESA WATER SYSTEM USERS

May 5th, 2017

With the recent heavy rainfall and a forecast for increasing temperatures over the next week it is expected that the Sage Mesa water system will start seeing both elevated lake turbidity and increased water flows. In response, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) is issuing the seasonal Boil Water Notice effective immediately for the Lower Zone of the system, which includes all properties with addresses on the following roads:

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

This Notice will remain in effect until further notice.

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.

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 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. For after-hours water related emergencies, please call Regional Dispatch at 250.490.4141.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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

<https://portal.rdos.bc.ca/departments/publicworks/5200-5799EnginAndPW/5600Water/WaterQuality/AreaF/SageMesa/WaterSystemNotices/SageMesaWaterSystemBoilWaterNoticeMay052017.doc>