



PRESS RELEASE

BOIL WATER NOTICE – SAGE MESA

UPGRADING UPPER ZONE FROM A WATER QUALITY ADVISORY TO A BOIL WATER NOTICE & REMINDER TO LOWER ZONE OF THE EXISTING SEASONAL BOIL WATER NOTICE **May 7, 2018**

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen is upgrading the current Water Quality Advisory to a Boil Water Notice for the Upper Zone which includes:

- Sandstone Dr.
- Westwood Dr.
- Ponderosa Pl.
- Sandstone Cres.
- Pinetree Pl.
- Tyrone Pl.
- Sandpiper Ln.
- Estates Pl.
- Forsyth Pl.
- Forsyth Dr.
- Ryan Rd.

RDOS is also reminding Lower Zone residents to boil their water as per the seasonal Boil Water Notice. This is in response to turbidity levels in Okanagan Lake increasing above **10 NTU**. The **Interior Health Authority's** turbidity response plan requires a Boil Water Notice to be in place for all system users when turbidity levels increase above 10 NTU. This Advisory 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 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.

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