



PRESS RELEASE BOIL WATER NOTICE REMINDER

LOWER SAGE MESA WATER SYSTEM USERS

April 26, 2016

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (Operations Contractor for the Sage Mesa water system) wishes to remind all Sage Mesa residents in the Lower Zone that the seasonal Boil Water Notice remains in effect for the following addresses:

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

The spring freshet is now in effect and Okanagan Lake turbidity levels are on the rise. This increase in turbidity reinforces the need for the seasonal Boil Water Notice. There are 3 main types of pathogens (micro-organisms) that pose risks to human health in drinking water; viruses, bacteria and protozoa. The Sage Mesa water system has only one level of treatment, the addition of chlorine. Chlorine can typically target viruses and bacteria however with increased turbidity these organisms have the potential to remain viable in the water as turbidity particles can “shield” these organisms from the chlorine. Protozoa are organisms such as *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium*. *Giardia* can be partially inactivated by chlorine however with 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.

Please note that the **Upper Zone** of Sage Mesa is now on a Water Quality Advisory due to the increase in turbidity.

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 Water Quality Advisory.

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.

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