



# PRESS RELEASE WATER QUALITY ADVISORY

## UPPER SAGE MESA WATER SYSTEM USERS (Westwood and Husula Highlands)

April 26, 2016

The spring freshet is now in effect and Okanagan Lake turbidity levels are on the rise. The Sage Mesa water system has dropped to a “Fair” rating on the Turbidity Index. In response the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (Operations Contractor) is issuing a Water Quality Advisory effective immediately for the Upper Zone of the system which includes all properties with the following addresses. This Advisory will remain in effect until further notice.

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

The Interior Health Authority and RDOS recommend that children, the elderly, people with weakened immune systems, and anyone seeking additional protection 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 full boil and allowed to boil for at least 1 minute.



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 Lower Zone of Sage Mesa remains on the seasonal Boil Water Notice.

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. For after-hours emergencies call Regional Dispatch at 250.490.4141.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Send an email to [info@rdos.bc.ca](mailto:info@rdos.bc.ca) and remember to include your name and address to receive future email notifications.