



INFORMATION RELEASE

SAGE MESA WATER SYSTEM

UPPER ZONE – BOIL WATER NOTICE UPGRADED FROM THE WATER QUALITY ADVISORY FOR TURBIDITY

LOWER ZONE - PERMANENT BOIL WATER NOTICE REMINDER

May 11, 2023

In consultation with the Interior Health Authority, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS), operations contractor for the Sage Mesa water system, is upgrading the current **Water Quality Advisory** for the Upper Zone of Sage Mesa to a **Boil Water Notice**. This is in response to a further increase in turbidity at the Okanagan Lake intake. A further deterioration in water quality is expected with the forecasted increase in temperatures over the weekend. The RDOS is reminding residents of the Lower Zone of Sage Mesa to adhere to the **permanent Boil Water Notice** that remains in effect.

UPPER ZONE – BOIL WATER NOTICE

A **Boil Water Notice** for turbidity is in effect immediately for the Upper Zone of the Sage Mesa water system. Turbidity at the Okanagan Lake intake for Sage Mesa is now at a “Poor” rating according to the Interior Health Authority’s turbidity index. This **Boil Water Notice** includes all properties with addresses on the following roads:

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



Precautionary Instructions

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 one (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**.

LOWER ZONE – **BOIL WATER NOTICE**

The permanent **Boil Water Notice** remains in effect for the Lower Zone of Sage Mesa. This **Boil Water Notice** includes all properties with addresses on the following roads:

- Sage Mesa Dr.
- Ladera Pl.
- Solana Cres.
- Pine Hills Dr.
- Verna Pl.

This **Boil Water Notice** will remain in effect until the appropriate engineering upgrades are in place to provide the required chlorine contact time between the Lake Pump Station and the first customers of the system (the Lower Zone).

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 one (1) minute to reduce the risk of infection from pathogens that may be found in the water.

The Interior Health Authority has identified an insufficient chlorine contact time for users in the Lower Zone of the Sage Mesa Water system. Chlorine contact times are required to allow for proper disinfection of surface water sources that may contain pathogens such as viruses and bacteria. In order to meet the required contact time, infrastructure improvements will be required.

The RDOS is also reminding 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 RDOS Utilities 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.