



St. Mary's County Health Department

NEWS RELEASE

www.smchd.org

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FLOODED WELLS SHOULD BE DISINFECTED BEFORE RESUMING WATER USE

LEONARDTOWN, MD (September 6, 2006) – As county residents clean up from flooding associated with Tropical Depression Ernesto, homeowners are advised to disinfect their wells if they know or suspect that flood waters have entered and contaminated their systems. Evidence of contamination may be cloudy or dirty water. St. Mary's County Health Department urges residents to use bottled water or an alternative safe source until disinfection and follow-up testing is complete. If residents do not have access to bottled water or an alternative source, their well water should be boiled for one full minute in a clean container before use.

“People who obtain their water from an individual well should disinfect the well and distribution system if floodwaters reached and entered the well casing. In order to safeguard public health and personal well being, it is best to use a safe source until disinfection is complete and testing shows the water to be safe,” said Daryl Calvano, Environmental Health Services division director at the health department. A fact sheet providing information about disinfecting wells and step-by-step instructions for taking this precaution are available at the St. Mary's County Health Department and by visiting the health department Web site at >www.smchd.org<.

(more)

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Residents should contact the Health Department's Environmental Health Services division at 301-475-4321 regarding specific questions they may have about testing and well safety. The health department will waive the typical fees charged for well water sampling for individuals who disinfect their systems.

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