

WHAT IS A BOIL WATER NOTICE?

TALLAHASSEE – Due to flooding and damage caused by Hurricane Dennis, the Florida Department of Health (DOH) is advising individuals under a boil water notice to take precautions against contaminated water, particularly those with private wells. If your well has been covered with standing water, your water may contain disease-causing organisms and may not be safe to drink.

DOH recommends one of the following:

- Boil water before use, holding it at rolling boil for at least one minute before using it for drinking, washing, cooking, etc.;
- Disinfect water by adding 8 drops (about 1/8 tsp – this would form a puddle about the size of a dime) of plain unscented household bleach per gallon of water, and then let it stand for 30 minutes. If the water is cloudy after 30 minutes, repeat the procedure. Use a container that has a cap or cover for disinfecting and storing water to be used for drinking. This will prevent contamination.
- Use bottled water, especially for mixing baby formula.

After the flooding subsides:

- Disinfect your well using the procedures available from your local health department or provided on the Department of Health at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/water/manual/floodinf.htm>; and
- Have your water tested by your local health department or by a laboratory certified by the State to perform a drinking water analysis.

For further information, please contact your local county health department or visit www.doh.state.fl.us or www.FloridaDisaster.org.

The Florida Emergency Information Line: 1-800-342-3557.

Public Information Emergency Support Function: 850-921-0384.

###