

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, July 12, 2004
10 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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WATER WELL SAFETY IN FLOODED AREAS

Boiling well water advised in affected areas

In areas that experienced torrential rains and flooding Monday, residents or businesses served by private water wells are urged to take precautions before using water. Boiling water is advised before drinking, cooking or bathing.

Flooding can introduce impurities to both public and private drinking water sources. Property owners whose homes, rental units and businesses are supplied water from an individual private well should be aware of potential health hazards if their wells were submerged. This is especially critical for drinking water wells with wellheads that are above ground. Buried wells are less susceptible to the affects of flooding and are not likely to be adversely impacted. As a precaution, purchase enough bottled water to provide one gallon per person per day.

If you suspect your drinking water wellhead has become flooded, take the following precautions:

Boil tap water for one minute and let it cool before drinking or using it to cook, bathe or wash dishes. By boiling the water, you should avoid becoming ill from bacteria or other microorganisms that may have contaminated the well.

- Test your well water before using it. The Delaware Division of Public Health, Office of Drinking Water will provide free drinking water test kits to detect contamination from bacteria and nitrates. Test kits are available at the following sites:
- **Delaware Public Health Laboratory**
30 Sunnyside Rd., Smyrna
(302) 653-2870
- **Limestone Building**
2005 Limestone Rd., Suite 300
Wilmington
(302) 995-8650
- **Williams State Service Center**
805 River Rd., Dover
(302) 739-5305

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