

GLENN COUNTY

Planning & Community Development Services Agency Environmental Health Department

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MARDY THOMAS, Director

Water Wells – After A Fire Disaster

GENERAL SAFETY TIPS:

- ✓ **Trips/Fall Hazards.** Be careful walking near the location of a well. Covers may be obscured by debris, missing, or damaged.
- ✓ **Rope off your well.** Mark the area near a well as a potential hazard to prevent trips/falls.
- ✓ **Shut system power off** or verify power is shut down before inspecting the area.
- ✓ **Bring drinking water.** If you think a fire may have damaged your water supply, bring bottled water back with you when you return to your home.
- ✓ **Disinfect your well.** Wear protective gloves, goggles and clothing while handling bleach. A well should be disinfected following a repair, maintenance or replacement of the pump or if the power has been off for an extended period.
- ✓ **Have your system inspected** by a licensed well or pump contractor before using it again.

VISUALLY INSPECT WELL FOR:

- ✓ **Damaged and melted or exposed electrical wiring.**
Exposed electrical wiring to the well poses a significant electrical safety hazard with potential for an electrical short to the metal casing. If the electrical wiring has been damaged by fire, do not handle the wiring or touch the casing. Flag the area around the well casing and its components.
- ✓ **Damaged and melted PVC casing, liner or pipe** may contaminate the well with VOC's among other things.
- ✓ **Damaged well houses and pressure tanks** may contaminate the well.
- ✓ **Debris, such as ash and sediment entering uncovered wells** may contaminate the well.
- ✓ **Cracks in the covering** of a well may allow pollution, bacteria, insects or animals to enter wells causing contamination.

DAMAGED SYSTEMS:

- ✓ **If your well has been damaged by fire**, contact a licensed well contractor or pump installer to determine the extent of the damages and what must be done to either repair or decommission the well with permits through the Glenn County Environmental Health Department.
- ✓ **Additional Information** <https://www.countyofglenn.net/dept/planning-community-development-services/environmental-health/water-quality>