



### **Emergency Drinking Water Well Disinfection Procedures**

- Locate and uncover well head. Remove any debris or insulation that may be surrounding the well head. Watch for insects or snakes.
- Mix one gallon of regular, unscented 5%-9% concentration chlorine bleach with approximately 4 gallons of water.
- Pour the mixture into and around the well head, making sure to cover the outside of the well head pipe.
- If you have an ancillary water treatment system or an extra filtration system, bypass those before pulling water through house.
- Turn on each faucet or spigot in the house one by one until the chlorine odor is present. Shut down entire water system for 6-24 hours (24 hours is preferable if you are able).
- After the disinfection time is complete, turn on each faucet one by one until the odor of chlorine is no longer present.

#### **\*Important Notes\***

- Foothills health district recommends using bottled water if at all possible during times of emergencies.
- This procedure will work as long as there are no breaks or cracks in your well casing or in your household water lines. Breaks or cracks could result in intrusion of contaminated surface water, so inspect your lines as much as possible before beginning procedure. It is common for water to be muddy or cloudy when coming back from an extended downtime, but if water does not clear up shortly, do not consume as this could be an indicator of cracked, broken or compromised water lines or well head casing.
- Chlorination procedures will not minimize the presence of petroleum products in water. If your water smells like oil or gas, or has a slick feel, do not consume.