



## Well Water Safety

When Nova Scotians return to their homes in the Purcell's Cove/Spryfield area following the fires, they should be mindful of well water quality.

**Well water in the area affected by burning or fire fighting should not be consumed until it has been tested and confirmed safe. *Bacterial* testing should be done by all well owners.**

Avoiding water consumption means avoiding uses of water like drinking, preparing infant formula, juices or ice cubes, washing fruits and vegetables, cooking, or dental hygiene, until the water has been tested and confirmed safe.

Water should not be consumed from any wells that were damaged as a result of the fire, until there has been complete repair of the well, the repaired well has been purged (pumped out) and disinfected, and the water tested and confirmed safe. All work on well repair should be done by a well driller, well digger or pump installer who are licensed by NS Environment. If electrical wires leading to the well have been damaged by the fire, the well should not be used until it has been inspected by an electrician and licensed pump installer.

Additional *chemical* testing may be needed if any of the following have occurred:

- if there have been any spills nearby as a result of the fire, for example due to damaged fuel oil tanks;
- if fire fighting operations have affected the well, for example if water bombers have dropped water directly on the well;
- if residents notice any changes to their water quality, such as cloudy water or unusual odours;
- if the well water quality has never been tested.

If your well has been damaged, water bombed, or there has been a spill, please contact your local Nova Scotia Environment office in Bedford at 1-877-9ENVIRO (1-877-936-8476) or 424-7773, for further details on what your well should be sampled for.

Sample bottles and instructions for sampling well water can be picked up at the NS Environment office in Sunnyside Mall in Bedford, at the Environmental Services Laboratory at the QEII Health Sciences Centre at 5788 University Avenue in Halifax, or from private testing labs. A list of labs is available from NS Environment's web site at [www.gov.ns.ca/nse/water/waterlabs.asp](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse/water/waterlabs.asp)

You may also call NS Environment in Bedford at 424-7773 if you need help interpreting the

results of well water testing.

For further information on well water safety and proper well construction, please see the Department's web site: [www.gov.ns.ca/nse](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse)