

Private Water Well Disaster Preparedness and Recovery: All-Hazard Tips for Staying Prepared

Louisiana is no stranger to natural disasters, including hurricanes, floods, drought, wildfires, snow, and ice events. Always follow emergency and evacuation advice for your area. The Louisiana Department of Health's Private Well Initiative recommends these steps to protect your private water well before and after a natural disaster.

- **Store Well Documents Safely** - Keep maintenance logs, registration, and photos of well components and treatment systems for insurance or replacement needs.
- **Request a No-cost Toolkit** - Contact the [Louisiana Department of Health's Private Well Initiative Program](#) at 888-293-7020 to assist with organizing and securing your important documents.
- **Prepare an Alternative Water Supply** - Store bottled water or fill a reserve tank before severe weather strikes. Secure at least one gallon of water per person per day for drinking, cooking, and brushing teeth.
- **Keep Hazardous Materials Away** - Store chemicals, fertilizers, gasoline, paint, etc. away from the wellhead to reduce contamination risk during storms and floods.
- **Disconnect Power to the Well Pump** - Take this action before adverse weather to prevent shock or system damage. Work with a licensed professional to seal the wellhead or use a tightly sealed plastic sheet to block floodwater and debris from entering the wellhead or casing.
- **Shut Off Water Systems** - Before storms arrive, unplug filtration systems, turn off the hot water heater, and close backflow and shut-off valves to prevent contamination.
- **Winterize in Cold Weather** - Insulate above-ground well components and piping to prevent freezing and bursting.
- **Inspect After Severe Weather** - Check the well and plumbing for damage, test water quality, and use an alternate water source until results are free of contamination.

Scan to visit the LDH Private Well Owner Network to locate these sampling and stewardship resources near you, or call toll-free 888-293-7020 for more information.

