



Public Information

County of Ventura • Resource Management Agency • Environmental Health Division

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FAQ: ONSITE DOMESTIC WATER WELLS AND FIRE REBUILDS

My house was destroyed in the wildfire and I plan to rebuild. Can I use an onsite water well for domestic water service?

Yes. Property owners proposing to utilize an onsite water well as their source of domestic water will need to obtain approval from the Ventura County Environmental Health Division (Division).

What do you mean by “domestic water”?

Domestic water refers to water used for drinking, sanitation, and/or culinary purposes. The water you drink, wash your hands with, shower with, and cook with is domestic water.

I already certified my water many years ago. Will I need to certify my water well again to rebuild?

Yes. The Division only certifies water quality for a private domestic water well for a period of two years. After that time an updated Certification of Water Quality approval for the well is required to obtain a building permit from County Building and Safety. These requirements include: the application with review fee, water quality analytical results listed on page 2 of the application, a site plan, and a pump and recovery test to verify water yield. If the well is shared, a copy of the recorded shared water well agreement must be submitted as well.

Are there any special provisions or variances for the Certification of Water Quality for wildfire-affected properties?

Yes. There are two special considerations for wildfire-affected properties:

1. If there are existing water quality analytical results on file with the Division, you do not need to submit new analytical results for all contaminants; only current, post-wildfire nitrate and bacteriological results are required since water wells are subject to bacterial and nitrate contamination from septic systems, animal waste, and storm run-off.
2. The 24-hour pump and recovery test will be waived if a) the well provided the domestic water supply before the fire, and b) the floor plan for the rebuild is the same size as the previous structure.

My water well was damaged during the fire or the debris removal process. What do I do?

Depending on the type of damage, you may need to obtain a repair permit from County Building and Safety and/or Watershed Protection District, Groundwater Resources. The well will need to be repaired and functioning properly prior to Division approval as the domestic water supply for your rebuild.

Questions? Please contact us!

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