



Public Information – Thomas Fire Recovery

County of Ventura • Resource Management Agency • Environmental Health Division

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FAQ: ONSITE DOMESTIC WATER WELLS AND THOMAS FIRE REBUILDS

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

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 considered domestic water.

What are some of the reasons why my water well might not be approved?

The two main reasons your water well may not be approved for the domestic water supply are:

1. Unable to provide documentation of long-term domestic supply. The well must provide a minimum of 5-gallons per minute (gpm) to each dwelling. In other words, a well serving domestic water to a single-family residence and a second dwelling will need to produce at least 10-gpm as shown in a pump and recovery test.
2. Water quality analytical results exceed maximum contaminant levels for one or more constituent.

I already certified my water many years ago. Do I still need to certify my water well?

If there are existing water quality analytical results on file with the Division, you will only need to submit current (post-Thomas Fire) nitrate and bacteriological analytical results. Water wells are subject to bacterial and nitrate contamination from septic systems, animal waste, and storm run-off.

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

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

Questions? Please contact us!

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