

The CZU Lightning Complex Fire & Water Quality:

In August of 2020, the CZU Lightning Complex Fire burned dozens of structures throughout the service area of the SLVWD. In late August of 2020, the SLVWD sampled for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in the fire-impacted neighborhoods.

These sampling events revealed isolated detections of benzene and other VOC's in the Riverside Grove neighborhood. Benzene and other fire-related VOCs have not been detected in any mainline samples since September 16th, 2020, however the SLVWD plans to monitor the distribution system for VOCs in the long term. In conjunction with the State Water Resources Control Board-Division of Drinking Water, the SLVWD has developed a Long-Term VOC Monitoring Plan, which can be viewed in the link below. The Long-Term VOC Monitoring Plan details the sample collection locations as well as the frequency of sampling. The plan specifies that the SLVWD will continue to monitor the distribution system for VOCs until at least December of 2022. Learn more and see sample results <https://bit.ly/3bzVzZd>



The District is primarily using well water sources to supply its customers in its system (areas including Ben Lomond, Brookdale, and Boulder Creek) due to the CZU Lightning Complex Fires. As a majority of the District's surface water sources were damaged during the fires, demand can no longer be met with surface water alone and the District is relying on its wells. The wells have much higher dissolved mineral content than other District water sources.

These minerals include iron, manganese and carbonate hardness and are naturally occurring in well water. These minerals do not pose a health hazard, but can affect the aesthetic qualities of water, such as taste, odor and color.

The District uses "free chlorine" as a residual disinfectant throughout the water distribution system. Chlorine odors become stronger as the water temperature increases. This can especially be noticed in the shower, or on hot days.

To learn more, view the District's Water Quality Troubleshooting guide <https://bit.ly/3q9aBcm>

To view additional information on water quality relating to the CZU fires and to see all lab results <https://bit.ly/3smkaGM>