



San Lorenzo Valley Water District

Do Not Drink – Do Not Boil Advisory (8/29/2020)

Frequently Asked Questions

The San Lorenzo Valley Water District (SLVWD) in conjunction with the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW) issued a Do Not Drink - Do Not Boil water advisory (Advisory) on August 29th, 2020. For a copy of the Advisory including a map of the affected areas, see <https://www.slvwd.com/home/news/unsafe-water-alert-san-lorenzo-valley-water-district>.

The Advisory warns against the following:

- **DO NOT DRINK YOUR TAP WATER---USE ONLY BOTTLED WATER.** Bottled water should be used for all drinking (including baby formula and juice), brushing teeth, washing dishes, making ice and food preparation **until further notice**.
- **DO NOT TRY AND TREAT THE WATER YOURSELF.** Boiling, freezing, filtering, adding chlorine or other disinfectants, or letting water stand will not make the water safe.

Questions & Answers

How do I know if my home or business is affected by the Advisory?

The Advisory has a map of affected areas, see <https://www.slvwd.com/home/news/unsafe-water-alert-san-lorenzo-valley-water-district>. In addition to the areas shown on the map, the Advisory is in effect for 17 homes located in the Bennett Spring area along Felton Empire Road and Featherston Wy, Jenny Wy and Ley Rd in Felton. If you still can't tell if you are in the affected areas, please contact the District at (831)338-2153

I'm located outside the affected areas. Can I use the tap water?

Yes, you can use the tap water outside of the affected areas.

Is the tap water contaminated in the affected areas?

Unfortunately it is unknown at this time if the tap water is contaminated in the affected areas. The water is still being tested.

If contamination is unknown, why is there an Advisory?

The Advisory is a precaution to protect health and safety while the water is being tested. Some areas of the water system (the affected areas) lost water pressure during the wildfire. Depressurization can lead to contamination. Possible contaminants that have been linked to wildfire depressurization events include Benzene, VOCs, bacteria.

When will it be known if the tap water is contaminated?

Unfortunately a date cannot be provided. SLVWD and DDW are working 7 days a week including weekends and holidays to make more information available. Some lab results were received and released last week. More lab results are expected to be received and released during the coming week.

When will the Advisory be lifted?

Unfortunately it is unknown when the Advisory will be lifted. The Advisory may be lifted or modified for different areas at different times. It depends on when water sampling shows the absence of contamination for the particular area.

Can I take a shower using tap water in the affected areas?

Yes, you can shower using tap water. If you choose to shower using tap water in the affected areas, do not ingest (drink) the water. SLVWD recommends to limit the use of hot water, use cold or lukewarm water, limit shower time, and ventilate the area well. The safest option is to use alternative water for showers.

Can I take a bath using tap water in the affected areas?

At this time, the SLVWD recommends not to take baths using tap water in the affected areas.

Can I flush toilets in the affected areas?

Yes, you can flush toilets.

Can I fill up my hot tub or swimming pool with tap water in the affected area?

At this time, the SLVWD recommends not fill up hot tubs or swimming pools with tap water in the affected areas. If hot tubs and/or swimming pools have been filled with tap water in the affected areas during or after the wildfire, the SLVWD recommends not to use the hot tubs and/or swimming pools at this time.

Can I use a dishwasher to wash dishes in the affected areas?

Yes, you can use a dishwasher to wash dishes. If you choose to use a dishwasher in the affected areas, SLVWD recommends to use an air dry setting on the dishwasher and ventilate the area. The safest option is to use alternative water for dishwashing.

Can I use the water to irrigate my plants in the affected areas?

Yes, you can use the water to irrigate your plants.

Can I use tap water to do laundry in the affected areas?

Yes, you can do laundry. If you choose to do laundry with tap water in the affected areas, SLVWD recommends to limit the use of hot water, use cold or lukewarm water, limit run time, limit your contact with the water, and ventilate the area well. The safest option is to use alternative water for laundry.