



News Release

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Camano Island neighborhood urged to boil tap water

OLYMPIA — Camano Island residents who get their drinking water through the Camano City Community Club are urged to boil their water. Lab tests on routine water quality monitoring samples show potentially harmful *E. coli* bacteria in the water.

The system operator, Water and Wastewater Services, issued boil-water advisories Thursday afternoon to the 127 homes. The affected area is in the middle of the island on the western shore.

Residents should use boiled water or purchased bottled water for drinking, brushing teeth, preparing food, making ice and washing dishes. To kill bacteria, the state health department recommends heating tap water to a brisk boil for one minute and allowing the water to cool.

The operator said the water system, which is not chlorinated, has experienced several power and water outages in recent months. When water pressure is lost, it's possible for contaminants to be drawn into the water system.

“All water systems, from individual wells to large public water systems, should be aware of the increased risk of contamination during water outages and take precautions,” said Bob James, manager of northwest regional operations for the department’s Office of Drinking Water. “This especially applies to water systems that don’t chlorinate their water.”

The department is working closely with Water and Wastewater Services staff. They will collect more water samples and inspect the water system, then disinfect and flush the water lines.

Residents can call 360-466-4443 with questions about their water quality.

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