Procedure for Potable Water Haulers that Hauled Non-potable Water during Fire Response

Many bulk water haulers who have a Food Handling Permit to haul potable water, were filled with non-potable water during the Fort McMurray Fire Emergency Response. The procedure below must be completed to ensure your potable water tank no longer contains potentially contaminated water.

Follow this procedure if you:

- Hold a Food Handling Permit issued by Alberta Health Services to haul potable water AND
- Filled your water tank from these water systems
  - Fort McMurray
  - Anzac
  - Gregoire Lake

These tanks require cleaning followed by disinfection using potable water.

Bulk water haulers that have only filled tanks with water from potable water sources throughout the fire are not required to complete this flushing procedure. Potable water sources include:

- EPCOR
- Fort McKay
- Janvier*
- Conklin*
- Any other potable supply.

* The Janvier and Conklin boil water advisory was issued as a precautionary measure. The records and additional testing confirm these water supplies were safe throughout the emergency.

Procedure for Cleaning and Disinfecting Water Hauling Tanks

You will need potable water to complete the cleaning and disinfecting procedure. Access potable water from a water treatment plant truck fill station where:

- A boil water advisory was never issued, as the water was potable throughout the emergency OR
- The boil water advisory has been rescinded.
Steps

1) Drain water from tank

2) Wash inside surfaces of the tank by means of a high pressure hose (i.e. steam). When entering the tank, make sure your footwear and equipment are clean.

3) Drain water from the bottom of the tank to waste.

4) Rinse inside surfaces of the tank with potable water and drain to waste.

5) Disinfect the inside surfaces/attachments of tank, outlets, and equipment as follows:

Fill the tank with potable water.

- Add 8 Litres of household bleach to every 1000 gallons of water and mix well to ensure all surfaces come into contact with disinfecting solution (i.e. 100 ppm chlorine).
- Run water from the tank to hoses until the smell of chlorine is detected in the water.
- Close off water hoses and let chlorine solution sit in the water tank and hose systems for a minimum of 20 minutes contact time.
- Drain tank and hose systems to waste taking precautions not to contaminate disinfected components.

Please note that super chlorinated truck water produced in the final disinfection step needs to be dechlorinated properly before disposal.

Operators need to document the actions on the activity log attached.

Collect a bacteriological water sample

Collect a bacteriological water sample as soon as possible. Please contact AHS Environmental Public Health to find out when bacteriological sampling can be completed. Until your water sample results arrived, the water will be considered potable as long as the cleaning and disinfection step has been carried out diligently.

Notify AHS when the procedure is complete and water sample has been collected at Environmental Public Health, North Zone 780-513-7517.

For more information, please contact your nearest Environmental Public Health office.

Edmonton Main Office  780-735-1800  Grande Prairie Main Office  780-513-7517
Calgary Main Office  403-943-2288  Red Deer Main Office  403-356-6366
Lethbridge Main Office  403-388-6689  www.ahs.ca/eph