

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
COORDINATION AND TRACKING OF PRECAUTIONARY BOIL WATER NOTICES
DURING HURRICANES OR EMERGENCY EVENTS
JUNE 2019**

1. Both agencies will adhere to Chapter 62-555.340, F.A.C., regarding the issuance of a Boil Water Notices (BWN) and its corresponding guidance as referenced in Chapter 62-555.335(18), F.A.C.
2. During hurricane season BWN protocols are essential to the proper management of public health and the Public Water System (PWS) Program activities in impacted areas.
3. All DEP District Offices that issue BWNs in non-approved DOH counties (CHDs) and all DOH Approved County Health Departments (ACHDs) that issue BWNs shall immediately enter the status of such notices into the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's *Storm Tracker* monitoring website where appropriate.
4. The *Storm Tracker* data set for each PWS will include facility identification & status information such as system PWS ID number, system name, county where it is located, facility operational status and the status of the BWN. BWN status should include "issued" or "rescinded" and the dates of those actions. FDEP district and the DOH ACHDs will provide Storm Tracker guidance to regulated facilities prior to the beginning of Hurricane season and will provide updates as needed. Guidance will include contingency plans for reporting facility status in the absence of access to StormTracker.
5. From this information and other sources, DOH HQ in turn will make a statewide daily summary list available to CHD offices, DEP HQ Tallahassee and district offices, several agencies (EPA, DACS, AHCA, and DBPR), the DOH public information office and to appropriate State Emergency Operations Center. DEP HQ may distribute the summary to other appropriate contacts.
6. DEP and DOH local offices will communicate as early as practical to water systems that local DOH offices may conduct verification bacti sampling; and regardless of which county the system is located, the system is to inform its local DOH office when it intends to initiate 2-day clearance sampling prior to requesting rescission of a BWN.
7. The decision to rescind a BWN remains the responsibility of the office having PWS jurisdiction in the affected county, and will be based on all information available to the responsible office, including any verification sampling done by DOH. All decisions to rescind a notice will be coordinated with the local health department prior to rescinding any notice.
8. The DOH shall take the lead in the issuance of countywide BWNs. Additionally, where it is determined that individual facilities within such a county have not suffered power outages or loss of system pressure, or otherwise should not be subject to the BWN, the facility or the agency with jurisdiction shall modify and record justification (note) in the facilities *Storm Tracker* data set as appropriate.
9. Following the complete assessment of affected community water systems, the appropriate DOH ACHDs and DEP District Offices should begin assessing, time permitting, the status of high priority non-community public water systems first (medical, shelters, food facilities), then other NC systems, and may issue BWNs when appropriate. The BWN status of these water systems shall be communicated to DOH HQ by email or phone for posting within the daily BWN summary report. This information will then be communicated by the DOH HQ to other agencies, corporations, and to the media.
10. In the event a DEP District Office or ACHD is unable to conduct public water system assessments within a given county, any authorized drinking water regulatory agency (DEP, DOH or CHDs) may assist in assessing the status of water systems, issuing and rescinding BWNs, or collecting bacteriological samples. All such efforts must be coordinated with the respective drinking water regulatory agency for that county. When the applicable regulatory agency is able to do so, it shall reassume its normal oversight duties for that respective county, and communicate such to the assisting county health departments.