

<b>MSDH – Water Supply Flood Guidance</b>	<b>Contact Numbers</b>	
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	MS Rural Water Association:	(601) 857-2433
<b>May 10, 2011</b>	Community Resource Group:	(601) 497-0110

Advice regarding public water system wells that will be flooded:

1. Plug casing vents, air line openings, etc., and any other possible pathways into the casing with silicone caulk or other appropriate sealant or plugs. (Be sure to unplug those openings prior to turning the well back on after the flood recedes.)
2. Weld steel plates over the top of casings of old wells that are not in routine use but have not been filled with concrete.
3. Seal control boxes if flood stage is predicted to inundate control boxes. Use sealant that can be easily removed later.
4. Kill power to well site so that well does not come back on automatically when regional power supply is later restored.
5. Secure as tightly as possible all chlorine cylinders or elevate cylinders above predicted flood stage if possible. Preferably, disconnect and remove chlorine cylinders from the site if flood is predicted to rise above top of cylinders. If disconnected, all hoses, valves, etc., must be closed and secured.
6. If possible, relocate bags of fluoride, lime, soda ash, and any other chemicals that are used in water treatment to a higher elevation.
7. Do not drain or empty any elevated tanks, pressure tanks, or ground storage tanks. If pressure tanks are expected to be inundated, relieve air pressure in tank and fill completely with water to keep stable and then valve off.
8. For wells on a three-phase power supply, wait until power supply is completely restored (all three phases) before turning well on.
9. Consider valving off areas of the distribution that are inundated and that may experience broken distribution lines, hydrants, meters, etc., which can present an imminent backflow hazard.
10. Take whatever precautions MDEQ recommends for sewer systems (i.e. sealing sewer lift station panels).
11. Where the opportunity arises, advise private well owners to caulk or seal openings, and wrap their wellhead tightly with heavy plastic wrap and duct tape.

*Disclaimer: the MS State Department of Health does not intend for the above guidance to be all-inclusive of every situation that may be encountered. In some situations, a case-by-case analysis may reveal that certain parts of the above are not applicable, and/or that alternate procedures are more appropriate.*

