



US Army Reserve Safety Awareness



Safe Water During and After Emergencies



Is Your
Drinking
Water Safe?



SAFE WATER:

For drinking water, cooking, washing wounds and brushing teeth, use bottled water, boiled water or disinfected water.

Bottle Water: Use bottled water if it is available.

Boil Water: If you don't have bottled water, you should boil water to make it safe. Boiling water will kill most types of disease-causing organisms that may be present.

- If the water is cloudy, filter it through clean cloths, or allow it to settle and then draw off the clear water for boiling.
- Boil the water for one minute, let it cool, and store it in clean containers with covers.

Disinfecting Water: If you can't boil water, you can disinfect it using household bleach. Bleach will kill some, but not all, types of disease-causing organisms that may be in the water.

- If the water is cloudy, filter it through clean cloths, or allow it to settle and then draw off the clear water for disinfection.
- Add 1/8 teaspoon (or 8 drops) of regular, unscented, liquid household bleach per each gallon of water. Stir it well and let it stand for at least 30 minutes before you use it.
- Store disinfected water in clean containers with covers.

Well: The water should be **tested and disinfected** after flood waters recede. If you suspect that your well may be contaminated, contact your local or state health department or agricultural extension agent for specific advice.

CREATE & STORING AN EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY:

- Store at least 1 gallon of water per day for each person and each pet.
- Store at least a 3-day supply of water for each person and each pet. Store a 2-week supply, if possible.
- For personal hygiene & cleaning **ONLY**, store water in home tub, toilet tank, water heater tank and containers never used for fuel or toxic chemicals.

WASH YOUR HANDS:

Use soap and Safe Water: Wash hands before eating, after using the toilet and when cleaning and handling things dirty.

Keep pen cuts or sores clean: With clean hands, apply antibiotic ointment. If redness, swelling or drainage develops, see a doctor.