

## **Guidance for Property Owners When Returning to Residences after Evacuations or Power Loss**

### **If property is served by a residential domestic well:**

1. Inspect the well head for damage. If well shows any sign of damage including being subjected to high heat contact a licensed well driller or plumber to evaluate the well prior to restarting the well.
2. Remove the well cap and inspect the seal.
  - a. If there is any damage to the seal, contact a licensed well driller or plumber to replace the seal prior to restarting the well.
  - b. If the well seal is free of damage, disinfect the seal, well head and cap and replace the seal and cap with a 10% household bleach solution. Flush water through the home fixtures until such time as there are no signs of bleach odor in the water.
3. Inspect any pressure or storage tanks for damage, if damage is present or possible, contact a licensed well driller or plumber to have the system evaluated and repaired.

### **If property is served by an engineered septic system or system requires electricity to pump wastes:**

1. Evaluate all components of the residential septic system for possible damage, including but not limited to pump chambers and overflow alarm systems. If the system is unable to pump sewage to the treatment field contact a licensed plumber or engineer for system evaluation.
2. Ensure all electrical components of the system are functioning.

### **Perishable Foods:**

1. If your property lost power for an extended period of time, (in excess of four hours) it is recommended you discard and dispose of all perishable foods which require refrigeration of any type.
  - a. It is recommended to aid in clean-up you allow your refrigerators and freezers to refreeze perishable foods prior to removing them for disposal.
  - b. Double bag all discarded foods to control odors
2. Thoroughly clean with water and soap all interiors of all refrigerators and freezers, then disinfect them with a 10% household bleach solution. If possible allow the bleach solution to air dry.

**If you have any general questions regarding this guidance document, please contact the Environmental Health Services Division of the Washoe County Health District at 775-328-2436 or at [healthehs@washoecounty.us](mailto:healthehs@washoecounty.us) for more assistance.**