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PUBLIC ADVISORY

Treatment of Drinking Water During Flooding Events

Belmopan, November 5, 2020. 4:00 p.m.

As Belize continues to experience heavy rains due to the passing of Tropical Depression Eta, many residents have been experiencing flooding. It is anticipated that due to the flooding in some areas, drinking water sources may have become contaminated leaving it unsafe to drink and requiring treatment.

In order to avoid becoming ill, all households whose drinking water has been affected are asked to treat their water to make it safe for consumption. The Ministry of Health recommends using one of the four options below to treat drinking water:

1. Add one (1) tablespoon of bleach to five (5) gallons of water. Mix completely and leave to stand for 30 minutes before using. Do NOT use bleach that is scented.
2. Boil water at a rolling boil for one minute.
3. Add water purification tablets according to directions on the package.
4. Report any leaks in pipelines to the Belize Water Services Limited.

It is also highly recommended that persons in the rural areas that experience flooding and use well water to treat their drinking water as it may not be safe to drink. Water that is dark, has an odor or has floating pieces should NOT be used and should be disinfected.

The public is advised that the Ministry of Health continues to monitor the flooding situation to ensure all persons remain safe during this time of emergency.

For further information, please contact your nearest public health office countrywide.

Ends