

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR WELL OWNERS

Does your family or your community rely on water pumped from a well on your property? If so, it's a good idea to:

1. Build a basic understanding on the topic of groundwater
2. Gather some key information about your groundwater well
3. Take action to minimize local well contamination threats
4. Routinely perform well-maintenance checks
5. Have a plan for what to do in case of an emergency

This factsheet provides guidance to help groundwater well owners complete these five steps. By working through the checklists provided below you will have taken a giant leap towards safeguarding your water supply!

1. UNDERSTAND GROUNDWATER BASICS

- ☐ Read our "Groundwater Basics" factsheet found at <https://edwateragency.org/Drought-Water-Shortage/Resources>
- ☐ Check out resources available through the California State Water Resources Control Board: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/gama/well_owners.html
- ☐ Check out the National Ground Water Agency Well Guide: <https://wellowner.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/NGWA-Well-Guide-digital-version.pdf>
- ☐ Check out the free classes and workshops available from <https://privatewellclass.org/workshops>

2. UNDERSTAND YOUR GROUNDWATER WELL

- ☐ Find a copy of the driller's log or well completion report for your well. Go to the [California Department of Water Resources website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/gama/well_owners.html) if you don't have a copy.
- ☐ Write down basic facts about your well, including:
 - Age (based on the drill/install date)
 - Materials used for the casing and screen (PVC, steel, etc.)
 - Annular/sanitary seal depths
 - Well screen depth
 - Casing diameter
- ☐ Write down basic facts about your pump including:
 - Make / model
 - Size
 - Depth setting
 - Condition based on last pull date
- ☐ Draw a simple diagram of your well system, including all storage tanks, filtration system components, etc.
- ☐ Find a copy of the warranty information (if any) for your system components.
- ☐ Find out the make and model of your water treatment system and note the recommended manufacturer maintenance.
- ☐ Determine whether your well is pumping from a shallow or deep aquifer based on the well construction details.
- ☐ Monitor and record the operational performance of your well, tracking:
 - Flow rate (gallons per minute)
 - Depth to water while well has not been pumping
 - Depth to water during pumping, along with pumping duration
- ☐ Talk to neighbors and track local groundwater levels in the surrounding area



3. MINIMIZE WELL CONTAMINATION THREATS

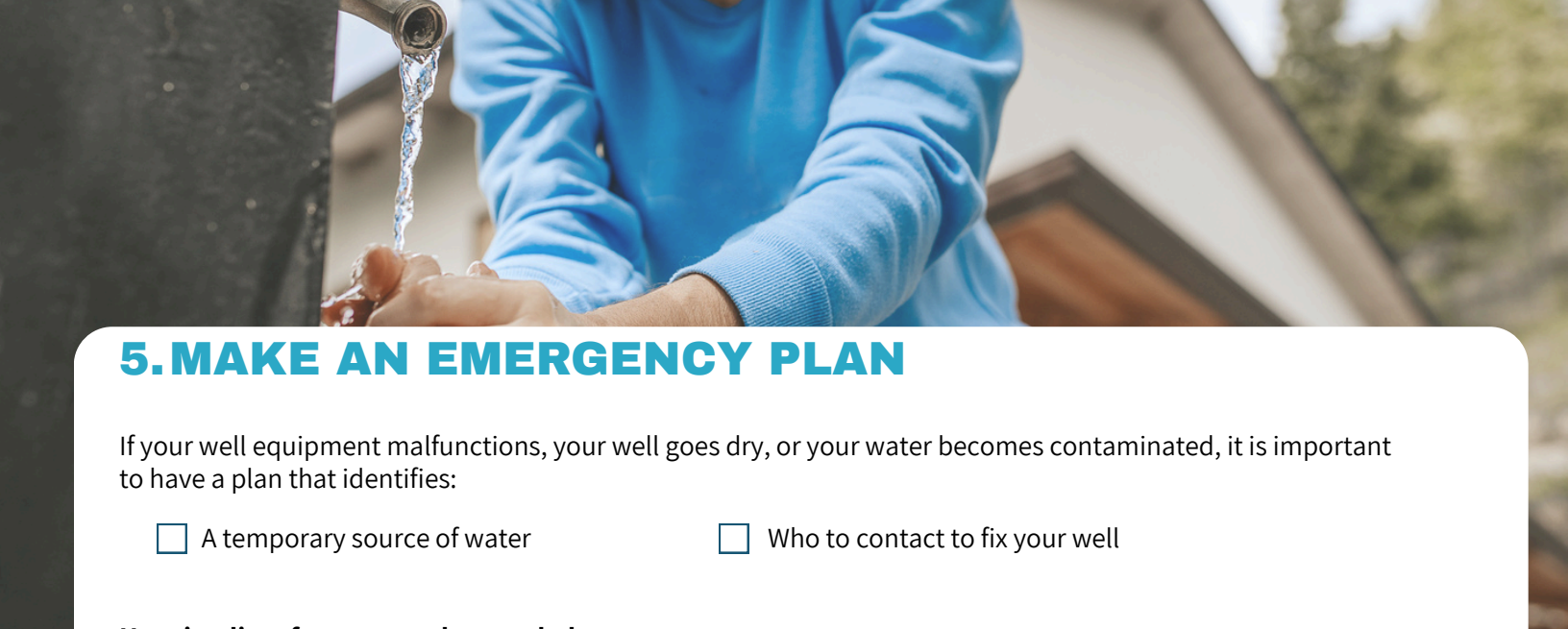
- ☐ Reserve the area within 50 feet of your well for “low impact” activities (e.g. house and outdoor spaces)
- ☐ Keep “medium impact” activities at least 50 feet away from your well (e.g. sewer lines)
- ☐ Keep “high impact” activities at least 100 feet away from your well (e.g. septic systems)
- ☐ Document any known water quality issues in your community or neighboring communities
- ☐ Read our “Groundwater Quality Monitoring Guidance” factsheet found at edwateragency.org/Drought-Water-Shortage/Resources

4. PERFORM ANNUAL WELL MAINTENANCE CHECK

The following list provides inspection recommendations for common groundwater well system components. If you have system components that are not captured on this list, make sure to inspect those too! It is recommended to complete an inspection of all well system components on an annual basis.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ Well Casing<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is the pipe in the borehole that extends vertically out of the well.• Check for general condition and ensure that this extends at least 12 inches above the ground.• Peer into the shaft and visually check for seal leaks, rust, or weakened fittings.☐ Well Cap / Seal and Base Plate<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that the cap is secure, the seals are in good condition, and that it is not loose, cracked, or otherwise broken.☐ Electrical Conduit<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visually inspect the wiring and connections and verify that all conduits are secure.• Do not touch any live wires!☐ Storage Tanks<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check the condition and accessibility of above- and below-ground storage tanks. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ Well Pump<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow your pump's manual for the recommended inspection and maintenance. For above-ground motors, ensure proper ventilation and lubrication.• Assess your pump depth and pumping water level to ensure the pump does not run dry.☐ Discharge Assembly<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visually inspect all pipes and connections, gauges, pressure relief valves, and the water meter for any damage or deterioration/ signs of corrosion.☐ Water Pressure Tank<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check for low water pressure .• Check for too much water in tank (waterlogged).☐ Hire a professional to perform a video inspection of the below-ground components of your groundwater well system.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If any issues are identified, reference the list of local contractors who provide professional well services on the following page. |
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Note that wells that have been repaired or affected by fires must be disinfected prior to use. More information on how to disinfect your well is available here: <https://www.eldoradocounty.ca.gov/County-Government/County-Departments/Environmental-Management/Water-Well-Program#section-3>



5. MAKE AN EMERGENCY PLAN

If your well equipment malfunctions, your well goes dry, or your water becomes contaminated, it is important to have a plan that identifies:

- ☐ A temporary source of water ☐ Who to contact to fix your well

Here is a list of resources that can help:

- A list of licensed water haulers from the [California Department of Public Health](#)
- A list of local contractors for well services provided by [the County](#).
- California Department of Water Resources [Be Well Prepared](#) – what to do if your well runs dry.

Call the El Dorado County Environmental Management Department at 530-621-5300 if you have any questions!



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