



# Sampling Protocol for Food Facilities & Temporary Water Systems

## Re-opening businesses after the Camp Fire

The following steps are required for food facilities and other commercial facilities in the Camp Fire burn area regulated by Butte County Environmental Health (BCEH). These requirements do not apply to private/residential standing structures in the Town of Paradise. Facilities using a Temporary water systems utilizing a water storage tank have 60 days to properly connect to Paradise Irrigation District (PID) once a certified letter from PID stating the water delivered to the meter is potable is provided. Please note, food facilities in the Town of Paradise are required to have additional inspections conducted and should contact the Town of Paradise Development Services at: 530-872-6291 ext. 114.

Temporary water systems (primarily food facilities) currently utilizing a water storage tank and have received notification from PID that the service connection is certified “potable” up to the water meter:

1. These facilities sampled for a full VOC panel at the time of re-opening on a water storage tank. If the service line from the meter to the building was isolated (i.e. the water storage tank was piped straight into the building) then the service line needs to be flushed, stagnant for 72 hours, sampled for benzene only, disinfected and sampled for Coliform bacteria.
2. If the service line is currently being used in the temporary water system, the system may hook up to PID but must disinfect the line where the repair is being made and take Coliform bacteria samples.

Food Facilities that are opening for the first time since the Camp Fire onto certified PID service connection:

1. The building will need to be thoroughly flushed (as per the [State’s Division of Drinking Water Guidelines](#)). After flushing is complete, the plumbing must be left stagnant with the water in the piping for at least 72 hours prior to sampling for VOCs according to the approved EPA sampling method. The full VOC panel is required and must be sampled in the kitchen area (specific to food facilities). The facility must also sample for Coliform bacteria. Environmental Health must verify there is a potable water source/supply.

Temporary water systems (primarily food facilities) installing water storage tanks for standing structures:

1. A temporary water storage tank must be installed and a contract with a certified potable water hauler must be obtained. The tank must be properly disinfected and then the building and tank must be thoroughly flushed with potable water (as per the [State’s Division of Drinking Water Guidelines](#)). After flushing is complete, the plumbing must be left stagnant with the water in the piping for at least 72 hours prior to sampling for VOCs according to the approved EPA sampling method. The full VOC panel is required and must be sampled in the kitchen area (specific to food facilities). The facility must also sample for Coliform bacteria. Lastly, the facility must provide BCEH a plan for maintaining water pressure on a water storage tank. **Additional paperwork/requirements may be required from BCEH.** Food facilities that only sell pre-packaged food are not required to install a temporary water system and may use non-potable water.

Questions for Butte County  
Environmental Health? Call:  
530-552-3880



Questions about the State’s Water  
Guidelines? Call:  
530-224-4800