

Maui Wildfire Recovery EPA Drinking Water Lateral Line Work

March 15, 2024

EPA continues its drinking water sampling efforts, now focusing on lateral service lines.



Maui gives so much to the world. As guests, we are honored to give our support back.

EPA is supporting the County of Maui's Department of Water Supply (DWS) to sample drinking water and isolate wildfire contamination from the rest of the system. EPA will be sampling lateral lines in the burned area of Lahaina.

What are lateral lines?

Lateral lines run perpendicular to the main service line and bring water from the main line to the meter. The laterals are owned by DWS. The segments that run from the meter to the house or business are the owner's responsibility. EPA will not sample interior plumbing.



Figure 1. Graphic showing main water line connection to hydrant and residential lateral line.

Lateral Line Sampling

EPA will sample each potable water meter box within the affected area, pulling from sampling stations (apparatuses) that will be installed by DWS at least 72 hours before sampling.



Figure 2. Meter box with apparatus and informational tag.

Observing flushing or sampling by EPA does not mean your water is safe or unsafe. EPA will send information about water quality to DWS to assist them in making determinations to lift advisories. Before using your drinking water, be sure to check the Department of Water Supply's Unsafe Water Advisory page mauirecovers.org/water to see if water in your area is safe to drink.

EPA is currently sampling for the following contaminants:

- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)
- Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds (SVOCs)

Cut and Cap

If any contamination is detected in the lateral lines, the lines will be "cut and capped" by an EPA contractor. First, the area will be excavated and cleared to reveal the lateral line. The connection point to the main will be cut, then capped, ensuring that contamination does not enter the main distribution line. EPA's work will aid the County in restoring safe drinking water to all of Lahaina.

Questions

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County Department of Water Supply: (808) 270-7550, www.mauirecovers.org