

# Maui Wildfire Recovery EPA Drinking Water Work – Isolation of Contaminated Lateral Lines



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EPA is conducting work to isolate drinking water lines in Lahaina from the county water system where certain contaminants have been detected.

*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) work by sampling drinking water and isolating water lines contaminated by the wildfires from the rest of the system.

## What are lateral lines?

Lateral lines run perpendicular to the main service line and bring water from the main line to the meter. The segments that run from the meter to a house, building or business are the owner's responsibility.

## Lateral line sampling and isolation

Since mid-March, EPA has been sampling main service lines and lateral lines within the affected area for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) – contaminants that can pose health risks at elevated levels in drinking water. EPA is analyzing the samples for these two contaminants and sharing the data with DWS to assist them in making determinations about lifting the current unsafe water advisory.

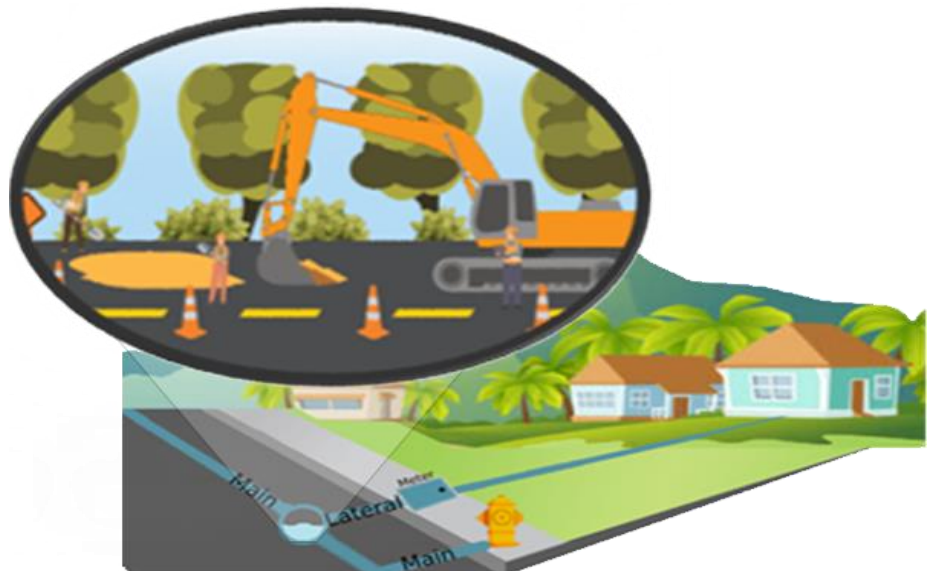


Figure 1: Graphic showing the location where the lateral and main water lines meet and where excavation, cutting, and capping will occur for contaminated laterals.



Figure 2: Photo of EPA sampling drinking water in the burned area of Lahaina.

If contamination is detected in a lateral line, it will be isolated from the water system. First, the area will be excavated and cleared to reveal the lateral line. Then the pipe at the connection point to the water main will be cut and then capped, ensuring that contamination does not enter the main distribution line. This work will help restore safe drinking water to Lahaina. EPA will have local cultural monitors and archaeologists observing this work to ensure sensitive or historical areas are not disturbed. Before using your drinking water, be sure to check DWS's Unsafe Water Advisory page [mauirecovers.org/water](http://mauirecovers.org/water) to see if water in your area is safe to drink.

## Questions

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