



## **QUONOCHONTAUG CENTRAL BEACH FIRE DISTRICT**

**November 15, 2017**

### **IMPORTANT QCBFD WATER SYSTEM NOTIFICATION**

**As part of our regular water monitoring, several routine water testing samples taken this past Friday Nov 10, and repeated Sunday Nov 12, have tested positive for Coliforms. Testing for E. Coli bacteria of these same samples revealed no evidence of E. Coli. These samples were obtained from household faucets within our distribution lines. It is important to note that the samples of our two wells did not reveal any contaminants and were normal. Therefore this is not a groundwater water issue but rather a distribution line issue. This is extremely unusual for Central Beach Water and we wish to address this aggressively..**

**Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessments to identify problems and to correct any problems that are found.**

**As a result of the above we are completing a comprehensive assessment of our water system to identify and correct any causes of the contamination including the following:**

**1. We will be chlorinating and flushing the water system including the storage tank as of this morning Nov 15, 2017. You may notice a slight chlorine smell within your water for several days.**

**2. We ask that any unoccupied homes which have not yet been winterized, i.e. water shutoff and drained, be accessed by**

**homeowners and/or caretakers to open a tap to allow for any stagnant water within the home be flushed and sterilized.**

**3. We suspect that the cause of entry is somewhere within the distribution system and not our well source. The wellhead samples have tested free of ANY bacteria.**

**4. As part of our process to identify a potential problems in our distribution system QCBFD Public Works (PW) and Northeast Water Systems (NEWS), our municipal water system operator, will potentially require access to ALL homes connected to the municipal QCBFD water system to check for cross connection or other potential entry sites into our water distribution system. We will reach out to each homeowner or caretaker to arrange for access. If access cannot be obtained, or is denied by the homeowner, QCBFD PW will isolate the home in question from the municipal water system until access is granted.**

**What should I do? Generally, since there are no E. Coli bacteria identified...you need not do anything; however:**

- If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.**
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your healthcare provider about drinking this water. You should also seek advice from your healthcare provider about using the water if you have an infant.**
- General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by bacteria and other disease-causing organisms are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-[800-426-4791](tel:8004264791).**
- Although not obliged you may wish to drink bottled water or boil any water prior to use for cooking or drinking**

**Please contact Vincent Reppucci QCBFD PW Committee Chair at [reppucci@gmail.com](mailto:reppucci@gmail.com) or [203 470 1189](tel:2034701189) with any questions**