

CZU COMPLEX FIRE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CITY OF SANTA CRUZ WATER QUALITY

IS SANTA CRUZ MUNICIPAL UTILITY (SCMU) WATER SAFE TO DRINK IN AREAS AFFECTED BY THE CZU FIRE?

Yes, drinking water provided by the City of Santa Cruz is safe to drink. The CZU Lightning Fire Complex did not affect the Santa Cruz water distribution system.

WERE ANY PARTS OF THE SCMU WATER SYSTEM DAMAGED IN THE FIRE?

Watersheds are an integral part of our water system, and parts of our watersheds have been damaged. Fortunately, little damage was done to SCMU water infrastructure by the fire.

SHOULD I BOIL MY DRINKING WATER BEFORE USING IT IN SANTA CRUZ?

No. It is not necessary to boil water provided by SCMU.

DID THE FIRES CONTAMINATE SCMU'S SOURCE WATERS?

SCMU conducts regular and ongoing water monitoring. A fire assessment will be performed by personnel in the affected watershed areas to evaluate damage. We will increase and/or expand monitoring as needed based on what we learn from the damage assessments.

WHAT KIND OF TESTING IS SCMU DOING TO MAKE SURE THE WATER IS SAFE?

The City of Santa Cruz Water Quality Laboratory is continuing to perform compliance testing of the distribution system and has implemented a comprehensive ongoing source water monitoring program to ensure the water quality is maintained and treated water is safe to drink.

IF THERE IS CONTAMINATION IN THE WATERSHED, DOES SANTA CRUZ HAVE THE ABILITY TO TREAT IT EFFECTIVELY AND SAFELY?

We do not anticipate any water quality issues until the first rains, and are preparing to add additional treatment if needed at that time. The treatment plant has numerous online analyzers that measure multiple water quality parameters in real time which will alert the operator to a change in water quality conditions that may require treatment modifications in order to ensure a quality product.

IF I HAVE A FILTER ON MY SINK AT HOME WILL IT EFFECTIVELY FILTER OUT ANYTHING BAD FROM THE FIRE? ARE THERE ANY HOME FILTER SYSTEMS THAT CAN TREAT IT?

There are many different water filtration systems on the market so we're unable to advise on the efficacy of any particular system.