

CONTAMINATED WELL WATER INVESTIGATION



What was the problem/situation?

The Mississippi River flooding in Spring 2011 caused 26 LA parishes to declare emergencies, with 18 potentially affected by the opening of the Morganza spillway. Water wells in flooded areas had the potential to be adversely affected by flood, introducing bacteriologic or chemical contaminants into private water supply which can lead to disease. Private wells in Melville, LA were tested and elevated arsenic levels were found (>10ppb)

How was Tracking involved?

To address this problem EPHT staff included arsenic and well decontamination updates into an existing brochure revision.

What action was taken to resolve the problem?

Revised brochures were made available to well water owners online and is being distributed to all well water owners in the affected areas, as well as to new registrants through their parish sanitarians. The brochure recommends private well inspection and annual water quality testing by identified licensed professionals and outlines areas of concern for arsenic in LA's alluvial aquifer systems or nearby other potential contamination sources.