

DRINKING WATER SOURCE MAPPING

LET THEM KNOW YOU'RE THERE!

The watersheds of the BC southern interior are where we live, work, and play. They are also the source of the water we drink. The first step and cornerstone to safe drinking water is the selection and protection of a high quality water source.

To protect public health, the threats posed by activities in our watersheds need to be identified and managed. Appropriate land-use practices and effective emergency response in sensitive areas (e.g. within 100m of intakes) is key to managing threats to drinking water. Having your water supply included in land-use and emergency response planning is essential for ensuring your water source is protected.

The *BC Action Plan for Safe Drinking Water for British Columbia* and *Drinking Water Protection Act* place the a responsibility on everyone to ensure their activities do not create a drinking water health hazard. This being said, it is not practical to expect land-users to address risks to drinking water sources they don't know exist. Being able to readily identify drinking water sources is also a key for protecting public health during environmental emergencies (e.g. hazardous material spills).

Every reasonable effort should be made to ensure drinking water sources can be identified by regulatory officials and emergency responders. .

Register your intake – it's the law

Under BC law, no person is permitted to take surface water without first registering with the Ministry of Environment. Further, since October 31st, 2005, any new well, altered well, or well connected to a drinking water supply systems (i.e. having a permit under the Drinking Water Protection Act) must be fitted with a well identification plate obtained from the Ministry of Environment. Registering your intake or well and providing coordinate data (e.g. collected by a GPS unit) means your intake is included in the provincial database and is available to provincial and local government agencies.

For more information on registering or updating water source information, please visit or call Front Counter BC at www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/authorizations.html **or** 1-877-855-3222.

To learn more about drinking water safety, visit the Interior Health – Health Protection www.interiorhealth.ca/health-and-safety.aspx, the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport www.health.gov.bc.ca/protect/dw_index.html, or the Ministry of Environment – Water Stewardship Division www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/ websites.