



EMLab P&K

FAQ's in Response to Hurricane Harvey

I'm a homeowner, can I bring in my drinking water for analysis?

We typically recommend that homeowners contact a certified consultant or inspector for water analysis. Consultants are able to give guidance on how to properly sample, which analytes are recommended to test for, how to interpret the results and what the next steps are if contamination is found. We do have a list of consultants for referrals, and would happy to provide you with their contact information. However, in light of the current circumstances, EMLab P&K is accepting drinking water for analysis from homeowners.

What do I collect the sample in?

It is recommended that the samples be collected in containers supplied by the lab, in order to prevent any outside factors to affect the accuracy of the results.

Where should I collect the sample from, well or faucet?

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) website provides protocols and guidelines on sampling. Please review the TCEQ document "How to Sample for Bacteriological Contaminants in Your Private Well Water and Understand the Results," below:

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-433.html>

“Forecasters estimate Harvey dumped about 15 to 20 trillion gallons of water across Texas. According to published reports, about 30 percent of Harris County, which includes Houston, was under water.”¹

After I collect the samples, are there any special instructions before they are delivered to the lab?

Upon collection of the samples, please fill out a Chain of Custody which provides sample identification, sample collection time, contact information and special instructions, amongst other information. Additionally, samples that are not chlorinated need to be delivered to the lab within 6 hours. If you are not certain if your water is chlorinated, please deliver to the lab within 6 hours to avoid inconsistencies. Visit their website here for further directions:

https://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/homeland_security/flood/flood_safewater.html

¹CBS Chicago (2017, August 30). Hurricane Harvey by the Numbers. <http://chicago.cbslocal.com/2017/08/30/hurricane-harvey-by-the-numbers/>



What do I do if I receive positive results?

Contact the city or county where you live, or the TCEQ. We always recommend the use of certified consultants or inspectors to help guide you in the process, and have a list of local consultants to refer to you to assist you in this process.

How much will this cost me if I do this myself?

Please contact your local Regional Account Manager or Project Manager for costs.
<https://emlab.com/app/contact/Contact.po>

How Can EMLab P&K Support You?

EMLab P&K is here to assist local communities affected by Hurricane Harvey. Our network of accredited laboratories offers a variety of testing, including analysis for the detection and enumeration of bacteria, asbestos, and mold. In addition, we offer qualified support to consultants, an established Quality Assurance program, webinar classes, and more.

For more details on our services, please contact:

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