RIO GRANDE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY

PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER

MANDATORY BOIL WATER REQUIREMENTS

RIO GRANDE COUNTY, COLORADO | FLOODING-RELATED PRECAUTION

ISSUED BY THE RIO GRANDE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY

Order Number	10252026
Date and Time Issued	October 25, 2026
Effective Date and Time	Immediately upon issuance, unless otherwise stated
Geographic Scope	Anyone with a well in Rio Grande County, Colorado. ***Order does not apply to those on City water service.**

1. Purpose and basis for this Order

Following the recent flooding affecting the Rio Grande County, Colorado, the Rio Grande County Public Health Agency (RGCPHA) is issuing this Order as a precaution to reduce potential exposure to waterborne pathogens. Flooding can damage water infrastructure, cause loss of distribution-system pressure, or introduce harmful microorganisms into a drinking-water supply. The information currently available for this draft does not establish that contamination has been confirmed; the precaution is intended to remain in place while the responsible water system and regulatory authorities assess conditions.

This Order is intended to apply only to the affected service area identified above within the county.

*This order does not apply to those on City water service.

2. Authority

This Order is issued pursuant to applicable Colorado public health laws and regulations, including C.R.S. §§ 25-1-506 and 25-1-509, and any other applicable authority confirmed by agency counsel and the relevant drinking-water regulator.

3. Required actions

All residents, visitors, businesses, and facilities within the affected service area must follow these requirements until this Order is rescinded or modified in writing:

1. **Boil water for consumption.** Bring water to a vigorous rolling boil for at least 3 minutes, then allow it to cool. Store it in a clean, covered container. Use commercially bottled water as an alternative.
2. **Use safe water for** drinking, preparing beverages and food, brushing teeth, washing produce that will be eaten raw, and preparing infant formula.
3. **Ice.** Do not use ice made from tap water during the Order. Discard ice that may have been made with affected water and make replacement ice using safe water.
4. **Food service and regulated facilities.** Restaurants, childcare facilities, schools, healthcare facilities, and other regulated establishments must follow applicable CDPHE, local public health, and industry-specific requirements and any additional instructions from their regulator.
5. **Other household uses.** Avoid swallowing tap water when bathing or showering, and take special care with infants and young children. Follow additional instructions from the water system or public health authorities for handwashing, dishwashing, and other uses.

4. Water-system response and public communication

The responsible water system operator shall coordinate with the appropriate drinking-water and public health authorities to assess flood-related impacts, take necessary corrective action, conduct required sampling or testing, and provide timely status updates. The operators should document actions taken and retain relevant operational and water-quality records.

The County (City and Towns) and RGCPHA should disseminate this Order promptly through official websites, direct notifications, public notices, local media, and other available channels.

5. Duration and rescission

This Order takes effect at the date and time stated above and remains in effect until modified or rescinded in writing by the authorized issuing authority in coordination with the responsible water system and applicable regulatory authorities. The Order shall not be considered lifted merely because tap water appears clear or has no unusual taste or odor. Any rescission should be based on the applicable regulatory criteria and confirmation that required corrective actions and water-quality checks have been completed.

6. Compliance and questions

Questions about the affected service area, water-system operations, and updates should be directed to the contacts below. Any enforcement provision must be limited to powers authorized by law; this Order does not independently create penalties or expand the issuing agency's jurisdiction.

***This order does not apply to those on City water service.**

RGCPHA / Public Health Director	719-657-3352
Town of South Fork	719-850-0363
Water System Operator / CDPHE Contact	……

ORDERED

Issued this _25th__ day of _October_ _____, 2026, at _5:00 p.m___



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Authorized Signature

Kolawole Bankole, MD, MS, MBA _____

Public Health Director / Authorized Official

Rio Grande County Public Health Agency