

Drinking Water Emergency Sampling (DWES) Kit

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) – Public Water Supply (PWS) and the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) – Montana Laboratory Services Bureau (MTLSB) have developed a **Drinking Water Emergency Sampling Kit** that can be used during an emergency to sample for some unknown contaminants that may have been introduced into a drinking water system. The DWES kits include instructions, sample containers, and personal protective equipment needed to collect water samples from a drinking water facility during a suspected or credible contamination threat. Always consult with the local authorities or hazardous materials handling professionals before entering a potentially hazardous environment or a potential crime scene.

These kits are not intended for sampling for anything other than waterborne contaminants. Consult with local authorities, Montana DES, and MTL SB regarding any other substances. If the sampling kit is used, consultation with the MTL SB lab is required to coordinate transportation, arrange any special handling requirements, alert necessary medical surveillance groups, and coordinate potential state laboratory network actions.

These **115 DWES kits** are located at all county health departments, public water supplies with a population over 3,300, DEQ Public Water Supply Offices, Tribal Jurisdictions, Regional Hazmat Teams, the 83rd National Guard Civil Support Team, and the MTL SB Laboratory. DEQ and MTL SB continue to present on these kits at various training sessions and meetings. The agencies are excited about the increased response capability of these pre-positioned DWES kits. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact:

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BENEFITS of the DWES Kit:

- Collection of a complete sample set is more likely to be achieved through the use of pre-designed kits
- **Complete kit ready to go**; no delay in obtaining bottles
- Expedited sampling and transport
- **Kits are Standardized for Montana**
- Instructions, Test Request form, and Chain of Custody form are included with each DWES Kit
- Geographically distributed for rapid access
- **Requires** communication/consultation with **MTLSB and DES** during an event
 - **1-800-821-7284 (24/7 Main MTL SB Laboratory line)**
 - **1-406-431-0411 (DES Duty Officer)**