

PERMISSION FORM FOR LANDLORD/PROPERTY OWNER TO CONDUCT WATER SAMPLING ON PROPERTY:

Full Residential Address of Study Participant

Background

The “*Fire and Water: Investigating Drinking Water Contamination in Paradise, California after the Camp Fire*” study is a scientific and community research collaboration between The Public Health Institute (PHI), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the University of California San Francisco (UCSF), and the University of California, Davis (U.C. Davis). The study is funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). This study is being done to learn about what chemicals may be found in tap water from households affected by the 2018 Camp fire. This study will ask participants to allow us to collect tap water at their homes, to answer a questionnaire, and some will be asked to allow a trained study staff person to install a water filter on the kitchen or bathroom faucet and use an air monitor to measure potential contaminants in the indoor air. The water filter can be removed after several weeks or the participant can choose to leave the filter on the faucet. Installation of the filter is very easy and will be conducted by trained staff. In the unlikely event that there is any property damage to the home or faucet during installation, we will pay for any needed repairs.

What are you asking of me?

Your tenant in the above property would like to participate in this study. Because of the potential impact to the value of your property if certain contaminants are found, and the potential legal obligation to disclose such impacts in a future real estate transaction, **we need to obtain your permission and notify you of such risk.**

Specific results your property will not be made public. We will only publicly disseminate overall study findings to the community, but there is an ‘opt-in’ clause so a participant can receive the specific results for their home/property. However, renters need to obtain permission from the property owner to conduct this testing and receive these individual results.

Because you are the property owner of the residence referenced above, we need to obtain your permission to conduct the tap water testing and to release property-specific results to you and the participant renting your home.

In addition, we are asking participants and landlords to give us permission to share the results for your home/property with your local water utility and with the State Division of Drinking Water. We are asking to do this because we believe it is important for the entities responsible for drinking water quality to know if there is a problem at a specific location so they can take action to address it. If you do not allow us to share the results, you may still participate in this study.

We are also requesting permission to share information collected in this study with researchers at U.C. Davis who are studying the health effects of the Camp fire.

What is my risk if I agree to the testing?

It is possible that we will detect some chemicals in the water sample from your property. These may include regulated or non-regulated chemicals. The potential effects of some of these chemicals on health may be currently unknown; this is a topic of current research interest.

If you agree to have this environmental testing done and it is determined that there are chemicals in excess of a regulatory level, you may have the legal obligation to report this in a future real estate transaction. Specifically, if we detect an elevated level of benzene, and it is associated with pipes or plumbing fixtures in the home, it would need to be reported in a real estate disclosure. If you are renting the property, the renter may be concerned if contaminants are detected, which could make it more difficult to rent the property.

Who will know that my property was tested as part of this project?

Your name will not be released to anyone and will only be available to study researchers at PHI and at UCSF. All personal information obtained in this study will be kept confidential and will be available only to study staff. A study identification number will be assigned to the water samples and all study documents. The address of your property will not be included in any reports from the study. All study documents containing identifying information will be stored in secure locked cabinets at PHI and UCSF, and electronic data files containing identifying information will be maintained on password-protected computers at PHI and UCSF. If you give us permission, we will share the results of water testing with the local municipal water company and the State Division of Drinking Water to compare with their studies of potential contaminants in the water system serving your property. If you give us permission, we will share the results of water testing with researchers at U.C. Davis who are studying the health effects of the Camp fire.

What if there is an elevated level at my home? Can more testing be done?

After the initial testing, the study will retest homes with elevated levels of benzene or other related contaminants. The retest will include samples from more than one tap in the house, and will also include a wider range of chemical contaminants. We will provide the results of the retest to you if you wish to receive them. If you wish to have any additional testing done after that time, that would be an expense that you would have to pay for. Study staff can provide you with information about local companies that do this work.

Who should I contact if I have any questions about this project?

For any questions concerning this study or if you are not satisfied with the manner in which this study is being operated we encourage you to contact the Principal Investigator, Dr. Gina Solomon at 415-289-9310, or via email at gina.solomon@phi.org.

If you have questions regarding your rights as a property owner or want to report any complaints or injuries, please contact Robert McLaughlin, J.D., Ph.D., Administrator of the PHI Institutional Review Board (the committee that oversees the PHI research involving human subjects) during regular business hours at 510-285-5500.

Fire and Water: Investigating Drinking Water Contamination in Paradise, California after the Camp Fire

Permission to conduct water sampling on my property:

I agree to allow my renter, _____, to participate in environmental sampling of tap water at my property at _____. I understand the risks involved if elevated levels are discovered. I understand that neither the Public Health Institute nor any of their agents or employees has any obligation whatsoever to reveal or release to me the results of the testing as it relates to my specific property unless my renter or I specifically request it. I understand that if I desire to have my tap water further sampled and analyzed there are a number of private companies that can do that testing for me for a fee.

By signing below, I indicate that I have read this form (or someone has read it to me), received acceptable answers to my questions, and have agreed to allow the environmental sampling to take place. I will receive a copy of this permission form. I understand the limitations and risks associated with receipt of environmental sampling results from this study and (please select one option for each of the statements below):

For water sampling:

- ☐ Yes, I do give permission to have my renter collect these water samples.
- ☐ No, I do not give permission to have my renter collect these water samples.

For individual results return:

- ☐ Yes, I do request the return of my property's results.
- ☐ No, I do not request return of my property's results.

For providing my property's results to the local water utility and the State Division of Drinking Water:

- ☐ Yes, I do give permission to share my property's results.
- ☐ No, I do not give permission to share my property's results.

For providing my property's results to U.C. Davis researchers:

- ☐ Yes, I do give permission to share my property's results.
- ☐ No, I do not give permission to share my property's results.

Signature of Property Owner

Printed Name

Date