



LOLO M. MOLIGA  
Governor

LEMANU P. MAUGA  
Lt. Governor

**AMERICAN SAMOA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**P.O. Box PPA Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799**

**Phone: 684.633.2304 | Fax: 684.633.5801 | www.asepa.gov**

AMEKO PATO  
Director

FA'AMAO O. ASALELE JR.  
Deputy Director

**Information Release Authorization Form**

**Thursday, November 19, 2015**

- Newspapers (Advertisement/Public Notice/Press Release)
- Radio Stations
- Televisions

Attached is an Information Release issued by our office (AS-EPA). We would like to ask your assistance in making this information available to the public immediately, via your broadcasts or news publications. For additional information, kindly contact the AS-EPA Director, Ameko Pato or Deputy Director, Faamao Asalele, or Tumau Lokeni, Environmental Awareness & Education Program Manager at 633-2304.

Fa'afetai lava.

- Governor's Office, ASG Weekly
- Director, Department of Public Information (KVZK-TV)
- Samoa News
- Samoa Post
- KHJ FM 93.1 Radio Station
- WVUV FM 103.1 Radio Station
- KSBS FM 92.1 Radio Station
- KNWJ FM 104.7 Radio Station

**Title/Heading:**

**“2015 Sanitary Survey – ASPA Small Systems of Tutuila and Aunu'u”**

Approved by:   
Ameko Pato, Director  
American Samoa – EPA

Date: 20 Nov 2015

## Press Release

### 2015 Sanitary Survey – ASPA Small Systems of Tutuila and Aunu'u

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency conducted a mandatory sanitary survey for ASPA's Public Water System (PWS) as part of its regulatory role to protect public health. In accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), all PWS are required to undergo a sanitary survey once every three years. A sanitary survey reviews the complete operation of the water utility for system performance, maintenance and upkeep, record keeping, microbiological and chemical analysis, treatment techniques, cross connection program, and other quality assurance procedures. While sanitary surveys are mandated periodically, AS-EPA has the authority to conduct sanitary surveys as deemed necessary and based on the integrity of the water utility system performance. This year, the villages of Aunu'u, Afono, Aoa, Masefau/Sailele, Fagasa and Vatia were AS-EPA and USEPA's focal point.

According to AS-EPA Director Ameko Pato, "the sanitary survey is an important component of our drinking water program in not only to identify deficiencies with the water infrastructure but also an opportunity to work with ASPA's water operators, engineers and management on how to address and correct those deficiencies. More importantly, these sanitary surveys prevent the risk of waterborne diseases, identify technical and managerial capacity development needs and document compliance deficiencies."

ASPA's corrections of deficiencies from previous sanitary surveys are verified by AS-EPA. These sanitary surveys were conducted from November 9 to 16, 2015. Over the past five years, ASPA has shown improvements in many areas and continues to make progress. The 2010 sanitary surveys identified major deficiencies and contaminant risks to the water quality which led to the current boil water notice. Since that time, ASPA has been working diligently to correct all of the issues and eliminate the contaminant sources and has received funding from USEPA and other agencies for necessary

improvements. ASPA has undertaken several strategies all at once; providing advance treatment, reducing water loss, bringing new, clean sources on line and eliminating sources of contamination.

When sufficient clean water is available to decommission all contaminated sources, the boil water notice will be lifted. The community can help by reporting illegal connections, leaks and sources of contamination such as failing septic systems, cesspools and non-compliant piggeries.

AS-EPA Director Pato, thanks ASPA for their cooperation and efforts in ensuring safe drinking water is provided for the people of American Samoa.

For more information, please contact AS-EPA at 633-2304.