

Flood Water after a Disaster

Inside the Home

- Keep children and pets out of the area until cleanup has been completed
- Wear appropriate clothing and equipment to keep you safe – rubber boots, rubber gloves, goggles, a mask and long sleeves/pants
- Remove and discard items that cannot be washed and disinfected
- Remove and discard drywall and insulation that has been contaminated by flood waters or sewage
 - This includes materials that are located one foot higher than the high water line
- Clean all hard surfaces (flooring, concrete, wood and metal furniture, countertops, appliances, sinks and other plumbing fixtures) with hot water and laundry or dish detergent
- Use fans and dehumidifiers to speed the drying process
- Wash your hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Wash all clothes in hot water and detergent; preferably at a laundromat

Electrical Hazards

- NEVER touch a fallen power line. Call the power company to report the downed line
- DO NOT drive through standing water, especially if downed powerlines are in the water
- If you believe someone has been electrocuted, call or have someone else call 911
- Avoid contact with overhead power lines during cleanup and other activities

Wound Infections

- Avoid exposure to flood waters if you have an open wound
- Cover clean, open wounds with a waterproof bandage to reduce change of infection
- Keep open wounds as clean as possible by washing well with soap and clean water
- If a wound develops redness, swelling, or oozing, seek medical attention immediately
- If there is a foreign object (soil, wood, metal, or other objects) in the wound, seek medical attention immediately
- Receive a tetanus booster shot, if needed