

AFTER THE STORM

1. Keep listening to your local radio or TV stations for information. If you evacuated, return home only when authorities advise that it is safe.
2. Cooperate fully with local authorities and public safety officials.
3. Drive only if it is absolutely necessary. Immediately following the passage of the storm, debris and flood waters may be covering roadways, making them impassible. Emergency crews will be working to clear roadways but it may take hours or even days to clear them all. Avoid sightseeing. Roads may be closed for your protection so if you encounter a barricade, turn around and go another way.
4. Do not drive in flooded areas. Avoid weakened bridges and washed out roadways.
5. Stay on firm ground. Moving water only six inches deep can sweep you off your feet. Standing water may also be electrically charged from downed power lines.
6. Beware of downed power lines. Lines may be charged and dangerous.
7. Beware of snakes, insects and animals driven to higher ground by flood waters.
8. Enter your home with extreme caution. Beware of fallen objects or damaged roofs and wall sections. Watch for nails, splinters, holes in walls or floors, wet or falling sections of ceiling, undermined foundations and gas leaks. Use flashlights for light. Do not use matches, torches or other open flame.
9. Remove shutters or plywood and open windows and doors to ventilate or dry your home if necessary.
10. Check gas, water and electrical lines and appliances for damage. Do not attempt to repair damaged gas or electrical lines. Call a professional.
11. Do not drink or prepare food with tap water until you are certain that it is not contaminated. The Health Department will issue advisories regarding drinking water in your area.



12. If your home has been flooded, flush plumbing fixtures with buckets of water to be sure they are open. Have health authorities inspect your sanitary disposal system. Water may have backed up into the septic tank, which in turn backs up into the plumbing system. This could cause a health hazard.

13. Avoid using candles and other open flames indoors. Use a flashlight or other battery powered lighting.
14. Do not use food that has come in contact with flood waters. Some foods can be salvaged if properly packaged. Consult local health officials if in doubt.
15. Use the telephone for emergencies only.
16. Start clean-up as soon as possible, especially if your home was flooded. Take pictures of all damage before you begin clean-up or repairs, for insurance purposes. Thoroughly dry and clean your house before trying to live in it.



17. Take all furniture and rugs outside to dry.
18. Dry and air bedding, clothing, and rugs as soon as possible to prevent mildew.
19. Be sure children are safe and being cared for at all times. Never leave young children alone or allow them to play in damaged buildings or unsafe areas.
20. Give special attention to cleaning children's toys, cribs, playpens, and play equipment. Boil any items a toddler or baby might put in his/her mouth. Discard stuffed toys, waterlogged toys, and non-cleanable toys.
21. Wear protective clothing on legs, arms, feet and hands while cleaning up debris. Wear rubber gloves while scrubbing flood damaged interiors and furniture.
22. Never connect portable generators to your house. Use them only to run the necessary appliances and plug the appliance into the generator.