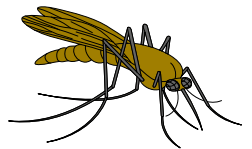


# The **ABC's** of Flood Safety

## **A** is for ANIMALS

- ❑ **Flooding can force many animals from their natural habitat. Therefore,**
  - Do not corner animals as they may become aggressive.
  - Be aware that they may carry rabies.
  - Seek medical attention if you are bitten by an animal.
  - If animal issues arise, call your local Animal Control agency.
- ❑ **Bees and Hornets can have their nests disturbed by wind and rain. Therefore,**
  - Use pesticide in clean-up areas where bees/hornets are hovering in the area.
- ❑ **Snake nests will also be disturbed by flood waters and they may seek shelter in abandoned homes, vehicles, furniture, and equipment. Therefore,**
  - Be sure to check those items carefully before re-entering.
- ❑ **There may be an excessive increase in mosquito breeding due to the flooding. Therefore,**
  - The Department of Health will increase mosquito surveillance.
  - Remember to remove excessive water in flower pots, buckets, and other potential sources of stagnant water – and repeat this daily.



## **B** is for BACTERIA and FUNGI (mold)

- ❑ **Flood waters may contain fecal material from overflowing septic systems and will contain urine and feces from animals. This creates an environment that is rich in bacteria and parasites. Human contact with many of these agents may cause gastrointestinal illnesses, skin infections and eye infections. Therefore,**
  - Minimize your contact with flood water and use personal protection including boots and gloves when you will have contact with flood water. A list of locations where boots and waders can be purchased is on the Department of Health website.
  - Do not allow children to play in flood waters.
  - If you have any open areas on your skin, do not have contact with floodwater. If you already have, call your doctor about a tetanus shot.
- ❑ **Mold will grow in flooded buildings that do not dry out quickly. People with asthma or other chronic lung diseases, allergies, or compromised immune systems may be prone to exacerbations of their condition if exposed to moderate to high levels of mold. Therefore,**
  - Hard surfaces should be scrubbed with warm soapy water using laundry detergent. Rinse with clear water and then repeat with a biocidal solution (1/4 cup bleach to 1 gallon of water).
  - Porous materials that have been saturated should be thrown away.



## **C** is for the **CONDITIONS OF THE WATER**

- ❑ **Flood waters are turbid and therefore visibility is extremely limited. Swiftly moving waters can also be a significant problem. In both of these scenarios, even shallow water can be dangerous. For example:**

- *Snakes and other animals in the water cannot be readily seen and therefore may be stepped on while walking in even shallow water.*
- *There may be ruts or other breaks in the ground that may cause you to trip and fall and inadvertently drink floodwater.*
- *There may be man-hole covers that have been displaced causing you again to fall.*



## **D** is for **Diarrhea**

- ❑ **Most gastrointestinal illnesses are self-limiting and will resolve without treatment. You should be sure to drink plenty of fluids to prevent dehydration. However, if you develop any of the following symptoms, you should seek medical attention:**

- More than 4 or 5 watery stools per day
- Bloody diarrhea
- Fever over 100 degrees
- Diarrhea that lasts over 3 days

