

Did You Know the Public Health Facts on **FLOOD SAFETY**



- ❑ **CONTACT WITH FLOOD WATER:** To reduce the risk of contracting disease (such as Tetanus, E.Coli, and Leptospirosis) avoid direct contact with flood or back-up water when possible. Children and pets should NOT play or come in contact with floodwater.
- ❑ **CLEANING THE HOME and HOUSEHOLD ITEMS:** Most household items will need to be inspected and properly cleaned if they came in contact with floodwater.

FURNITURE: All flood debris should be removed. It should be thoroughly cleaned and should be completely dried before use.

CLOTHING AND BEDDING: In most cases, these items should be discarded because of the extent of cleaning needed to rid the fabrics of contamination. If they are to be salvaged, be sure they are properly cleaned and dried – possibly by a professional.

TOYS and CONTAINERS: should be cleaned and disinfected. (You can make this disinfectant solution by mixing ¼ cup laundry bleach with one gallon of water. Always remember to follow all label directions for use.)

FOOD: All food items that have been submerged need to be destroyed – unless they are in hermetically sealed containers. If salvaged, remove the label from canned goods and thoroughly wash them with soap and water using a scrub brush.

WALLS, FLOORS and CEILINGS: All water should be removed. The areas should be inspected for safety and then thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. The areas should then be thoroughly dried and ventilated to reduce the risk of mold.

- ❑ **DRINKING WATER:** Secure safe drinking water from an approved or emergency water source. If this is not possible, *treat all water before drinking*. To do this, add 6 drops of liquid chlorine bleach to one gallon of water and mix. Wait 30 minutes before using it for cooking or drinking. There should be a slight taste of chlorine (if there's not, repeat process.)

NOTE: *If the tap water is not clear, it should not be used.*

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