

DISASTER QUICK TIPS: Basic Home Re-entry**Safety First**

Before entering a building that has been flooded, take care to be safe. Watch for loose plaster, drywall, and ceilings that could fall.

Wear Sturdy Shoes

Cut feet are the most common wound after a disaster.

Use Battery-powered Lights

Use battery-powered lights or flashlights if you need light for a short time.

Look for Fire Hazards

Fire is the most common hazard after floods. Look for:

- Broken or leaking gas lines;
- Flooded electrical wires;
- Furnaces and electrical appliances that are under water; and
- Items that can catch fire or explode.

Note: MDH has detailed fact sheets on these topics. See page 2.

Check for Gas Leaks

If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise:

- Quickly leave the building;
- Turn off the gas at the outside main valve if you can; and
- Call the gas company from a remote location.

If you turn off the gas for any reason, a professional must turn it back on.

Look for Electrical Damage

DO NOT step in water:

- If you see sparks, broken or frayed wires;
- Smell burning insulation; or
- To turn off the electricity.

Call an electrician to help.

If you can safely reach the fuse box or circuit breaker, turn off the electricity.

Pump Basement Water Slowly

Pump floodwater out of a basement slowly. Pump about one-third of the water each day to avoid damage to basement walls. Pressure from water in the soil outside the walls can break walls if you pump too fast.

This information has been excerpted and adapted from "Repairing Your Flooded Home," a 57-page booklet available in English at: http://www.redcross.org/www-files/Documents/pdf/Preparedness/file_cont333_lang0_150.pdf and in Spanish at: <http://www.redcross.org/www-files/Documents/pdf/Preparedness/repairingFloodedHomeSp.pdf>



Environmental Health Division
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MDH Environmental Health Flood Information

Website: www.health.state.mn.us/floods

MDH District Offices

Bemidji	218-308-2100
Duluth	218-723-4642
Fergus Falls	218-332-5150
Mankato	507-344-2700
Marshall	507-537-7151
Metro	651-201-4500
Rochester	507-206-2700
St. Cloud	320-223-7300

MDH Environmental Health Contacts

Website: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/contactus.htm

Asbestos

Asbestos and Lead Compliance: 651-201-4620

Website: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/asbestos

Carbon Monoxide and Mold

MDH Indoor Air Quality: 651-201-4601 or 800-798-9050

E-mail: health.indoorair@state.mn.us

Website: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/air

Cleaning-up and Food Safety

MDH Food, Beverage and Lodging: 651-201-4500

E-mail: health.foodlodging@state.mn.us

Website: www.health.state.mn.us/foodsafety

Public Drinking Water

MDH Drinking Water Protection: 651-201-4700

E-mail: health.drinkingwater@state.mn.us

Website: www.health.state.mn.us/water

Wells and Well Water

MDH Well Management: 651-201-4600 or 800-383-9808

E-mail: health.wells@state.mn.us

Website: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells

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