Emergency Preparedness Fact Sheet

Flooding

Flash floods and floods are the #1 cause of death associated with thunderstorms. More than half of all flood-related drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into hazardous flood water.

∗ Six inches of fast moving water can knock you off your feet

∗ Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles

∗ Avoid driving, walking or swimming in flood waters

∗ Move to higher ground during a flood

∗ Do not let children play near storm drains

After a Flood

Knowing what to do after a flood is just as important as knowing what to do before, and during one.

• Make sure everyone involved in a flood cleanup has an up-to-date tetanus shot. Booster shots are recommended every 10 years. Wear rubber gloves and boots when cleaning up.

• Wash hands frequently with clean, hot water and soap after coming in contact with floodwaters. Wash all clothes and linens in hot water.

• Wash dirt and mud from walls, counters and hard surfaces using hot water and soap. Disinfect surfaces with a solution of 1 1/4 cups bleach to each one gallon water. Use this solution when cleaning up sewage-tainted surfaces. For other surfaces, wipe with a solution of 1/4 cup bleach for each one gallon of water.

• Open all doors and windows; use falls, if possible, to ventilate the building. Discard mattresses and stuffed furniture. Discard all food that came into contact with floodwater and thoroughly wash canned food that has come into contact with floodwater.

• If a well is flooded, consider tap water unsafe. Use bottled water until you can determine that well water is safe. Do not use septic system when water is standing on the ground around the system until surrounding ground is dry.

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September is Emergency Preparedness Month