



STATE OF WISCONSIN \

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS  
Wisconsin Emergency Management

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*For Immediate release*

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608-242-3289, 608-242-3292, 608-242-3293, 608-242-3294**

**\*\*\*\*\*NEWS ADVISORY\*\*\*\*\***

**Flood Health and Safety Tips**

NOTE TO EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: HERE IS SOME HELPFUL INFO THAT YOUR READERS, VIEWERS OR LISTENERS MIGHT FIND USEFUL:

Flood recovery efforts can be stressful. Whether you are repairing your home, helping someone with theirs or helping as part of your job, you will need to protect yourself against the hazards you may encounter. Here are some suggestions to stay safe during recovery operations.

- Your first stop for assistance should be the local disaster recovery centers.
- If water or building damage is more than you can handle, or there are lead or asbestos materials in your house consider hiring a professional. Resources may be available through the disaster recovery centers.
- If you do the cleanup yourself, don't work alone. Ask for help from others.
- Make sure your immunizations are up to date, especially tetanus.
- Wear good quality work boots, long pants, and gloves to prevent cuts and punctures.
- If you must walk in flood waters, avoid contact by wearing high boots or waders.
- If you get a cut or puncture wound, wash and bandage it immediately. See your physician.
- Wash your hands frequently. Alcohol sanitizer will be helpful where safe water is limited or not available.
- Before entering your home, check with local emergency and building officials, and your local utility to make sure it is safe to enter.
- If you are volunteering, work through the local volunteer reception center to receive task assignments and safety orientation.
- When your work generates dust or debris, a dust mask or respirator may reduce exposures, but can add to the stress of work. You should check with your physician before using masks or respirators, especially if you have a heart or lung condition.

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- Remove and dispose porous materials (carpeting, dry wall, upholstered furniture) that have been wet more than 2 days. Do not resell these in rummage sales.
- For instructions on how to clean up mold contaminated materials, either contact your local public health department, or the Wisconsin Dept of Health and Family Services webpage on mold: [www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/eh/mold/](http://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/eh/mold/)
- If a generator is used, prevent carbon monoxide poisoning by placing it far away from the building and venting exhaust well away from interior spaces.
- Do not use your private well if floodwaters were nearby. Contact your local public health department for a water test kit.

For more information, see: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/recovery.asp>

For more information concerning health and safety during flood recovery, see: <http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/>

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