



SAFETY BULLETIN



Protecting Yourself During Flood Cleanup and Recovery Operations

Flood cleanup activities may expose workers to contaminated water, sewage, hazardous chemicals, sharp debris, electrical hazards, insects, and animals. Use safe work practices and the proper personal protective equipment before beginning cleanup.



Key Hazards After Flooding

- Contaminated floodwater containing bacteria, viruses, sewage, or hazardous waste.
- Chemical exposure from industrial, agricultural, or household products.
- Electrical hazards from downed power lines and damaged electrical systems.
- Insect bites, animal bites, and wildlife encounters.
- Cuts, punctures, and wounds that may lead to infection or tetanus.



PPE Checklist

- Waterproof rubber or nitrile gloves.
- Waterproof, slip-resistant boots.
- Long-sleeved shirts and long pants to reduce skin exposure.
- Safety goggles or splash-resistant eye protection.
- Chemical-resistant gloves and clothing when chemicals may be present.
- Insect repellent for outdoor cleanup areas.



Safe Work Practices



Water Safety

Assume all floodwater is contaminated unless authorities say it is safe. Use only safe drinking and washing water.



Electrical and Chemical Hazards

Stay away from downed power lines and damaged electrical equipment. Report report containers, fuel tanks, or hazardous materials to emergency responders.



Medical Precautions

Make sure tetanus vaccinations are current before cleanup work. Seek medical care if you develop fever, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal cramps, skin rash, dizziness, signs of infection, or if cuts or wounds are exposed to floodwater.

Hygiene

Wash hands with soap and clean water before eating, during breaks, and after cleaning up. Clean and cover cuts or puncture wounds.

Insects and Animals

Wear long sleeves and long pants when practical. Seek medical attention for animal bites or symptoms of illness.



REMEMBER: Protect Yourself Before You Clean Up

**Wear the right PPE | Practice good hygiene | Avoid floodwater contact |
Watch for electrical and chemical hazards | Get medical care when needed**



Source: OSHA Flood Cleanup Fact Sheet, OSHA 3471. This bulletin is intended for policyholder safety awareness and should be adapted for site-specific hazards.