POST-DISASTER TIPS TO STAY SAFE

If you’ve evacuated the area, wait for public officials to say it is safe before returning. Each year, a significant number of people are injured or killed while cleaning up after a hurricane. As you begin cleanup, keep these safety tips in mind:

**STAY SAFE**

- **Do not wade in floodwaters**, which can contain dangerous debris like broken glass, metal, dead animals, sewage, gasoline, oil, and downed power lines.

- **Do not enter a building until it has been inspected** for damage to the electrical system, gas lines, septic systems, and water lines or wells. Wear appropriate protective equipment such as gloves, safety glasses, rubber boots, and masks to protect you from debris and airborne particles, e.g., mold and dust.

- **Do not use electrical equipment** if it is wet or if you are standing in water.

- **Protect your pet** following a hurricane. To learn more, visit ready.gov/animals.

**STAY HEALTHY**

- **Throw out any food** including canned items that were not maintained at a proper temperature or have been exposed to floodwaters. Do not eat food from a flooded garden. When in doubt, throw it out.

- **Avoid drinking tap water** until you know it is safe. If uncertain, boil or purify it first.

- **Clean and disinfect everything** that got wet. Mud left from floodwater can contain sewage, bacteria, and chemicals.

For more resources about hurricane risk, visit ready.gov/prepare
FIVE STEPS FOR POST-HURRICANE CLEAN-UP

Use appropriate personal protective equipment to avoid injury from possible exposure to mold and bacteria including gloves, goggles, rubber boots, and N95 masks.

AIR OUT by opening all doors and windows whenever you are present. Leave as many windows open when you are not present as security concerns allow.

MOVE OUT saturated porous materials such as mattresses or upholstered items, especially those with visible fungal growth.

TEAR OUT flooring, paneling, drywall, insulation, and electrical outlets saturated by floodwater.

CLEAN OUT and disinfect any remaining debris and mud.

DRY OUT the building and any remaining contents.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The following resources and websites can help you further prepare for, respond to, and recover from a hurricane.

FEMA Mobile App: fema.gov/mobile-app

FEMA Against the Wind: Protecting Your Home From Hurricane and Wind Damage: fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/2988

FEMA Community Hurricane Preparedness Training: training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=is-324.a

FEMA Taking Shelter From the Storm: Building a Safe Room in Your Home or Small Business: fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/2009?id=1536

RELATED WEBSITES

American Red Cross Hurricane Preparedness: redcross.org/prepare/disaster/hurricane

FEMA Hurricane: ready.gov/hurricanes

FloodSmart Campaign: FloodSmart.gov

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): noaa.gov

Para obtener información y recursos en español visite community.fema.gov/?lang=es

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