**Keeping Safe After a Flood**

Although floodwaters may be receding in some areas, many dangers still exist. A flood can cause physical hazards and emotional stress. You need to look after yourself, your family and your community as you focus on cleanup and repair. Here are some things to remember in the days ahead.

**Ready.gov**’s Flood page has more information about staying safe after a flood, including health and safety tips, and clean up advice.

<http://www.ready.gov/floods>

The American Red Cross’s Flood page has information about what to do before you return home, and advice for inspecting and cleaning your home in their [*Returning Home After a Flood* fact sheet](http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m14240163_ReturningHomeChecklist.pdf).

<http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/flood>

* Play it safe. Additional flooding or flash floods can still occur. Listen for local warnings and information. Return home only when authorities indicate it is safe.
* Avoid floodwaters; water may be contaminated by oil, gasoline or raw sewage.
* Roads may still be closed because they have been damaged or are covered by water. If you must walk or drive in areas that have been flooded:
  + Stay on firm ground. Moving water only six inches deep can sweep you off your feet. Standing water may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
  + Flooding may have caused familiar places to change. Floodwaters often erode roads and walkways. Flood debris may hide animals and broken bottles, and it’s also slippery. Avoid walking or driving through it.
  + If you come upon a barricade or a flooded road, go another way. Barricades have been placed for your protection.
  + Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded. Roads may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.
* Use extreme caution when entering buildings; there may be hidden damage, particularly in foundations. Stay out of any building if it is surrounded by floodwaters.
* Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits and leaching systems as soon as possible. Damaged sewer systems are serious health hazards.
* Listen for news reports to learn whether the community’s water supply is safe to drink.
* Clean and disinfect everything that got wet. Mud left from floodwaters can contain sewage and chemicals.

**For questions related to flood safety and cleanup:**

**Contact: [Insert Community Contact Info.]**

* Rest often and eat well.
* Keep a manageable schedule. Make a list and do jobs one at a time.
* Contact the Red Cross for information on emotional support available in your area.