



# *Stay Safe after the Flood*

Kansas State University • Cooperative Extension Service • Manhattan, Kansas

## **DO NOT VISIT THE FLOOD SITE UNLESS YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO DO SO**

### **Returning to Your Home**

Do not enter your home if flood waters are over the first floor; you cannot tell whether the building is safe to enter. Floors in mobile homes and other buildings constructed with particle board may have separated and will give way under the weight of a person.

### **Utilities**

Be sure all electric and gas services are turned off before entering premises for the first time. You may want to make sure the electricity and gas are turned off at your home and not at just the housing development. The utility company may turn the housing development utilities back on when you are not expecting it.

Use battery-powered lanterns or flashlights (not oil or gas lanterns or torches) to examine buildings. If you think the building has a gas leak, do not use any kind of light. The light itself could trigger an explosion! Let the house air out for several minutes to remove escaping gas.

Do not handle live electrical equipment in wet areas. Have an expert check all equipment

before returning it to service.

Ask the gas company to check your home for leaks and to turn the gas back on.

### **Snakes after the flood**

Many snakes have been displaced and left homeless. As a result, it is commonplace to find these animals seeking shelter and food in areas close to people. Some of these areas include inside houses, storage sheds, barns, and other buildings. In addition, displaced snakes may also be found under debris created by the flood or created during the cleanup.

Watch where you place your hands and feet when removing or cleaning debris. Wear high boots in areas where snakes are likely to be found. If you find a snake in your house, try to isolate the snake within a small area of the house. Seek someone within the community who has experience with handling snakes. Treat all snakes as if they are poisonous.

### **Children**

Be sure children are safe and are supervised at all times. Never leave young children alone or allow them to play in flood water, debris, damaged buildings or areas that might be unsafe. Friends will be willing to care for your children during the clean up.

Michael H. Bradshaw, Extension Specialist,  
Health and Safety

### **Safety Tips**

1. More injuries occur in the recovery process than during the disaster.
2. Electrical safety is important after a flood.
3. Slippery surfaces can cause falls and injuries.
4. Be sure the water is safe before you drink.
5. Snakes are often prevalent after floods.
6. Gas leaks can cause explosions after floods.



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