

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

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RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF FLOODED HOMES SAFETY AND SANITATION

WATER

WATER FROM WELLS LOCATED IN FLOODED AREAS IS CONSIDERED "UNSAFE" AND SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR DRINKING OR COOKING, BRUSHING TEETH, DISHWASHING OR CLOTHES WASHING UNLESS BOILED FOR TWO (2) MINUTES OR TREATED WITH CHLORINE. TO TREAT WITH CHLORINE, ADD 3-4 DROPS OF LIQUID CHLORINE BLEACH TO EACH GALLON OF WATER, MIX AND LET STAND FOR THIRTY (30) MINUTES. THIS WILL MAKE THE WATER SAFE, HOWEVER, A SLIGHT CHLORINE TASTE MAY BE NOTICED.

FOOD

IF THE BASEMENT WAS FLOODED, YOU SHOULD DISCARD ALL VEGETABLES, SUCH AS POTATOES, CARROTS, CABBAGE, ONIONS AND OTHERS WHICH WERE IN CONTACT WITH THE FLOOD WATER. CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES SHOULD BE THOROUGHLY WASHED. WASH THE OUTSIDE OF THE CAN WITH SOAP AND HOT WATER USING A BRUSH AROUND THE COVERS AND RUBBER RINGS. THE CANS AND JARS SHOULD THEN BE IMMERSSED IN CHLORINATED WATER FOR AT LEAST FIFTEEN (15) MINUTES USING THE SAME STRENGTH SOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED IN THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR WATER.

FOOD STORED IN A REFRIGERATOR WHERE THE ELECTRICITY HAS BEEN OFF FOR MORE THAN TWENTY-FOUR (24) HOURS OR WHERE FLOOD WATERS HAVE RISEN ABOVE THE DOOR OPENING SHOULD BE DISCARDED.

FOOD STORED IN DEEP FREEZE UNIT WHERE THE ELECTRICITY HAS BEEN OFF FOR MORE THAN SEVENTY-TWO (72) HOURS SHOULD BE EXAMINED CAREFULLY. IF THE FOOD HAS NOT REACHED A TEMPERATURE OF 40° F. OR ABOVE IT COULD BE REFROZEN AND USED WITHOUT ENDANGERING HEALTH, HOWEVER, THE FLAVOR AND TEXTURE MIGHT BE DAMAGED. FOOD WITH A TEMPERATURE OF ABOVE 40° F. SHOULD BE DISCARDED. FOOD IN A FREEZER WHERE THE DOOR OR LID HAS BEEN SUBMERGED IN FLOOD WATER SHOULD BE DISCARDED IF THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT WATER HAS ENTERED THE FREEZER COMPARTMENT.

BASEMENT CLEAN-UP

WHILE A BASEMENT IS STILL FLOODED AVOID FLUSHING TOILETS OR USING OTHER PLUMBING FIXTURES WHOSE DISCHARGE WOULD INCREASE THE HAZARD OR MAKE THE BASEMENT MORE DIFFICULT TO CLEAN.

AS A FINAL CLEAN-UP OF WALLS, FLOORS, CUPBOARDS, DISHES, ETC. USE PLENTY OF SOAP OR DETERGENT. USE WARM OR HOT WATER IF POSSIBLE. AREAS MAY BE

DISINFECTED BY USE OF A CHLORINE SOLUTION. USE EIGHT (8) TABLESPOONS OR ONE-HALF (1/2) CUP OF LIQUID CHLORINE BLEACH PER GALLON OF WATER. DURING THE CLEAN-UP PERIOD OF BASEMENTS OR OTHER ENCLOSED AREAS, PROVIDE AS MUCH VENTILATION AS POSSIBLE BY OPENING WINDOWS OR USING VENTILATION FANS.

CAUTION

IF YOUR BASEMENT WAS FLOODED, YOU HAVE ENOUGH PROBLEMS. DON'T COMPLICATE THINGS BY BEING CARELESS! BE CAUTIOUS IN ENTERING A FLOODED BASEMENT RELATIVE TO ELECTRIC OUTLETS AND GAS LINES. HAVE THE UTILITY SERVICE DEPARTMENT SHUT OFF THE ELECTRICITY AND GAS LINE IF POSSIBLE. DO NOT HANDLE ANY CONNECTED ELECTRICAL CORDS OR APPLIANCES IF THE CURRENT IS STILL ON. GET ASSISTANCE BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO DISCONNECT CORDS OR OPEN THE FUSE BOX IN A FLOODED BASEMENT. DO NOT LIGHT A MATCH IN AN ENCLOSED AREA WHERE GAS COULD BE PRESENT. CHECK ALL AFFECTED PILOT LIGHTS OR BURNERS ON GAS-FIRED OR OIL-FIRED APPLIANCES BEFORE PLACING THEM BACK IN SERVICE. IF ELECTRICITY IS CONNECTED TO AN APPLIANCE WHICH HAS HAD THE MOTOR CONTROLS SUBMERGED, DO NOT ATTEMPT TO START IT UNTIL YOU HAVE CONSULTED YOUR APPLIANCE SERVICE COMPANY OR DEALER.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL FACILITIES

DUE TO THE FLOODING CONDITIONS THERE ARE SOME SEWAGE SYSTEMS TOTALLY UNDER WATER. IN THE EVENT THAT YOUR SEPTIC TANK AND/OR DRAINFIELD IS FLOODED, THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES ARE RECOMMENDED.

1. IF YOUR SYSTEM BECOMES TOTALLY INOPERATIVE, YOU SHOULD CONSIDER MOVING OUT OF THE HOME UNTIL THE FLOOD WATER RECEDES.
2. IF YOU HAVE A RELATIVE OR A NEIGHBOR WHOSE SYSTEM IS OPERATIVE, YOU SHOULD ARRANGE TO USE THAT SYSTEM.
3. YOU SHOULD MINIMIZE WATER USAGE. WASHING YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY AND BATHING ARE IMPORTANT. HOWEVER, YOU CAN MINIMIZE WATER USAGE IN YOUR HOME BY USING A COMMERCIAL LAUNDROMAT AND BY USING A NEIGHBOR'S FACILITIES.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CLEAN-UP OR FLOODED HOMES ARE AVAILABLE AT OUR OFFICE. YOU ARE ADVISED TO CONTACT THE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR ARE IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION PHONE: (517) 743-2390.