

Quick Tips: Basic Home Re-Entry

This information has been excerpted and adapted from “*Repairing Your Flooded Home*,” a 57-page booklet available in English and Spanish at: www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/flood.

Safety first

Before entering a building that has been flooded, take care to be safe.

Watch for loose plaster, drywall, and ceilings that could fall.

Wear sturdy shoes

Before entering a building that has been flooded, take care to be safe.

Watch for loose plaster, drywall, and ceilings that could fall.

Use battery-powered lights

Use battery-powered lights or flashlights if you need light for a short time.

Look for fire hazards

Fire is the most common hazard after floods. Look for:

- Broken or leaking gas lines
- Flooded electrical wires
- Furnaces and electrical appliances that are under water
- Items that can catch fire or explode

Check for gas leaks

If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise:

- Quickly leave the building.
- Turn off the gas at the outside main valve if you can.
- Call the gas company from a remote location.

If you turn off the gas for any reason, a professional must turn it back on.

Look for electrical damage

DO NOT step in water:

- If you see sparks, broken or frayed wires.
- Smell burning insulation.
- To turn off the electricity.

Call an electrician to help.

If you can safely reach the fuse box or circuit breaker, turn off the electricity.

Pump basement water

Pump floodwater out of a basement slowly.

Pump about one-third of the water each day to avoid damage to basement walls. Pressure from water in the soil outside the walls can break walls if you pump too fast.

MDH Environmental Health flood Information

Website: www.health.state.mn.us/floods

MDH Environmental Health contacts

www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/contacts

MDH DISTRICT OFFICES

- Bemidji 218-308-2100
- Duluth 218-302-6166
- Fergus Falls 218-332-5150
- Mankato 507-344-2700
- Marshall 507-476-4220
- Metro 651-201-4500
- Rochester 507-206-2700
- St. Cloud 320-223-7300

Asbestos

Asbestos and Lead Compliance:

651-201-4620

Email: health.asbestos-lead@state.mn.us

Websites: www.health.state.mn.us/asbestos
www.health.state.mn.us/lead

Carbon monoxide and mold

MDH Indoor Air Quality:

651-201-4601 or 800-798-9050

E-mail: health.indoorair@state.mn.us

Website: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/air

Cleaning up and food safety

MDH Food, Pools, and Lodging:

651-201-4500

E-mail: health.foodlodging@state.mn.us

Website: www.health.state.mn.us/foodsafety

Public drinking water

MDH Drinking Water Protection:

651-201-4700

E-mail: health.drinkingwater@state.mn.us

Website: www.health.state.mn.us/water

Wells and well water

MDH Well Management:

651-201-4600 or 800-383-9808

E-mail: health.wells@state.mn.us

Website:

www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells

*To obtain this information in a different format, call
651-201-5000 or 1-800-657-3908*

REVISED: FORMAT
FEBRUARY 2015