

Prepare...



Because
You Care

Returning Home After a Disaster

Returning home after a major disaster can be both dangerous and difficult. Be careful when entering a disaster area, and be ready to adapt to the conditions at hand.

- General**
- Put on sturdy, hard-soled, shoes and work gloves for protection against glass or other debris.
 - Use the phone only to report a life threatening emergency.
 - Keep a battery operated radio with you to hear any emergency updates.
 - Call your insurance agent.
 - Keep records of all clean-up and repair costs.
 - Don't throw away any damaged goods until a complete inventory is made, and photos are taken of your home and the damaged goods.
 - Notify your local disaster relief service if you need housing, food, etc.
 - Secure personal belongings.
 - If you are a tenant, notify your landlord.
 - If you smell gas or hear a hissing sound - open a window and leave the building. Shut off the main gas valve outside.
 - If there is electrical damage - switch off the power at the main control panel.
 - Check for injured or trapped persons. Give first aid where appropriate. Do not move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of further injury.
 - If water pipes are damaged, shut off the water supply at the main valve.
 - Do not flush toilets until you know that sewage lines are intact.
 - Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, gasoline and other flammable liquids.
- Flood**
- Stay away from flood waters.
 - Stay away from downed power lines.
 - Wash your hands frequently with soap and clean water if you come in contact with flood waters.

More information on the other side -

*For more information, contact your
local emergency management office
list at right, or call the state's
Emergency Management office
(800) 562-6108*

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Continued -

- Clean and disinfect everything that got wet in the flood. The mud left behind by flood waters can contain sewage and chemicals.
- Throw out food, cosmetics and medicines that have come into contact with flooded waters.
- If your basement is flooded, pump it out gradually (about 1/3 of the water per day) to avoid damage. The walls may collapse and the floor may buckle if the basement is pumped out while the surrounding ground is still waterlogged.

Fire

- Stay out of burned structures.
- Ask the fire department for assistance in retrieving important documents.

Earthquake

- Be prepared for aftershocks.
- Be careful when entering a damaged building. If you have any doubts about the integrity of the building have the structure inspected by a professional before entering.
- Open cabinets cautiously. Beware of objects that can fall off shelves.