



STATE OF OHIO

Emergency Operations Center

John R. Kasich, Governor

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614-889-7150

RECOVERING FROM A DISASTER

HEALTH

Flood waters may contain potentially dangerous materials, such as fecal matter from overflowing sewage systems, agricultural runoff and chemicals from industrial areas. Wading in flood waters can also be a cause of infection or result in a variety of injuries. Eating and drinking anything contaminated by flood water can cause diarrheal disease. Wash hands often after storm clean to avoid getting germs in your mouth. For more information contact your local health district.

ENVIRONMENT

Storm and flood cleanup activities can be hazardous. Workers and volunteers involved with flood cleanup should be aware of the potential dangers involved, and the proper safety precautions. Most waste can be taken to a licensed municipal solid waste landfill. Tree limbs and other vegetation may be able to be disposed at compost facilities or chipped and used as mulch. For additional guidance and contact information, local government officials may refer to the Debris Fact Sheet for Local Officials at: http://www.ema.ohio.gov/Documents/DRB/debris_fact_sheet.pdf.

Residents who live in a city or village cannot burn any type of waste onsite. Residential waste – including vegetative matter and woody material – may be burned in more rural areas as long as the burning is conducted more than 1,000 feet away from the nearest residence. These unrestricted areas are more than 1,000 feet outside a city of 1,000-10,000 people or more than one mile outside a city of more than 10,000 people.

Please contact Ohio EPA's emergency response hotline to report spills and releases of hazardous materials or petroleum. That number is **1-800-282-9378**. Citizens with general, non-emergency environmental questions can call Ohio EPA's Public Interest Center at **614-644-2160** and ask to speak with a public involvement coordinator for their area.

TRAVEL

Roads can be restricted due to high water and debris following severe storms and flooding. OHGO.com provides Ohio travelers with up-to-date information on road conditions, traffic, construction, and other activity affecting roadways. Visit www.ohgo.com. Please remember: Turn Around, Don't Drown.

TAKING CARE OF YOUR EMOTIONAL HEALTH AFTER A DISASTER

When we experience a disaster or other stressful life event, we can have a variety of reactions – all of which can be common responses to difficult situations. Help is available. Contact Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster at **740-732-6700** or your local Red Cross chapter.

INSURANCE

Since flood insurance is not included in standard homeowner and renter's insurance policies, now is the time to check on the availability of flood insurance in your area. Ohioans who have questions about their insurance policy pertaining to severe weather should work with their agent and can call the Ohio Department of Insurance at 1-800-686-1526.

www.insurance.ohio.gov/Consumer/pages/SevereWeatherToolkit.aspx

HOME IMPROVEMENTS & INSPECTIONS

After a flood or disaster, your property may be subject to inspections. You are strongly encouraged to contact your local building, zoning and /or floodplain administrator prior to repairing your damaged structure to ensure that all necessary permits are obtained. A list of those inspections can be found at <http://www.ema.ohio.gov/RecoveryBranch.aspx>.

Ohio law protects consumers who hire contractors for home improvement projects. For information on what to consider when making home improvements or repairs, or to check to see if there are any complaints against a business, contact the Attorney General Help Center at **800-282-0515** or visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov.