

Floodwater Talking Points

- **Stay out of the floodwaters**
 - There is always the possibility that flooding will cause sewage treatment systems (both community and residential) to fail, contaminating the floodwaters and exposing people to disease-causing bacteria.
 - Wading in the water could pose a health risk if it enters the body through an exposed wound.
 - If you have been in contact with floodwaters, showering with soap and water is sufficient. There is no risk for hepatitis A, typhoid or cholera.
 - As little as 6 inches of rapidly moving water can sweep you off your feet.
 - Be aware of submerged electrical or power lines.
 - Be on the lookout for dangerous wildlife in the floodwaters such as snakes, rats, alligators or any frightened animal. If you see wild animals, stay away.
- **Drivers should stay out of floodwaters and flooded roadways.**
 - The water may be much deeper than it appears, as the roadbed may be washed out.
 - Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.
- **Don't drink floodwater**
 - Do not drink or ingest floodwater because it may contain disease-causing bacteria or viruses.
 - If you live in an area that has experienced recent flooding and your private water well has lost power or been contaminated by floodwater, boil the water before drinking it.
 - Be aware of boil water advisories issued by the State, local government or your local water system.
- **Septic Tanks could be Affected By Floodwater**
 - Flooding will keep septic systems and other residential sewage disposal systems from operating correctly until the floodwaters recede. Homeowners should:
 - Avoid using the home's plumbing system if the septic tank or the drain field is still underwater.
 - Do not use the plumbing system if sewage is backing up into the house.
- **Practice good hygiene during cleanup**
 - Assume everything touched by floodwater is contaminated with bacteria and will have to be disinfected. People are advised to wash their hands frequently during cleanup and always wear rubber gloves.