



10 SAFETY TIPS FOR DISASTER CLEAN-UP

When reviewing these 10 safety tips for disaster clean-up and recover, keep in mind that some emergency response operations such as utility restoration, cleaning up spills or hazardous materials, and search and rescue must be conducted by qualified workers with proper training, equipment, and experience.

1. FLOODS

Use wooden stick or pole to check flooded areas for pits, holes and protruding objects before entering. Conduct a preliminary worksite inspection to verify stability before entering a building or operating vehicles over roadways or surfaces. Don't work in or around any flood damaged building until it has been examined and certified as safe.

2. GENERATORS

Use fuel powered generators outdoors. Do not bring them indoors!

3. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Use life vests for deep water exposure. Always wear watertight boots with steel toe and insole, gloves, long pants and safety glasses during cleanup operations. Sneakers should not be worn because they will not prevent punctures, bites or other injuries.

4. RESPIRATORS

Wear a N-95 NIOSH approved dust respirator if working with moldy building materials or vegetable matter like hay stored grain or compost. Use respirator equipment in accordance with OSHA's Respiratory Protection Standard 29 CFR 1910.134.

5. CLEAN-UP

To disinfect water, use 5 drops of liquid household bleach to each gallon of water and let sit for at least 30 minutes for disinfection to be completed.

6. ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

If damage to an electrical system is suspected, for example, the wiring has been under water and you can smell burning insulation, turn off the electrical system in the building and follow lockout / tagout procedures before starting work. Do not turn the power back on until equipment has been inspected by a qualified person.

7. TETANUS

Make sure your tetanus shot is current. Wounds associated with a flood should be evaluated for risk. Tetanus vaccination may be needed.

8. MOLD & FUNGI

For workers exposed to mold or fungi, avoid breathing dust or fungal spores generated by wet building materials, crops, and other materials.

9. LIGHT MOLD

Surfaces that have a light covering of mold should be scrubbed with warm, soapy water and rinsed with a disinfectant of 1/2 cup liquid household bleach mixed in one gallon of water. Do not mix bleach with other cleaning products that contain ammonia.

10. HEAVY MOLD

Large items with heavy mold growth should be covered with polyethylene sheeting and sealed with duct tape before being removed from the area.

SAFETY MATTERS

TRAINING FROM KMIT



ToolBox
TALKS

Meeting Topic: Safety Tips for Disaster Clean-Up Date: _____
Company Name: _____ Location/Dept: _____
Instructor Name: _____ Instructor Signature: _____

Print Name:

Sign Name:

By signing this sheet you are acknowledging participation in this training.