

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 2, 2017

**South Central Public Health District continues to advise on health and safety hazards associated with flooding.**

**BLAINE COUNTY, ID** - South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) would like to remind the public of the potential health and safety hazards associated with flooding.

“Flood water and standing water are associated with various risks including infectious disease, chemical hazards, and injury. It is important to limit your exposure. You should wash your hands frequently with warm water and soap if you come in contact with contaminated water,” stated Logan Hudson, Public Health Nurse Manager.

Other potential problems that may occur during flooding events include failing septic systems due to saturated drainfields, contaminated drinking water due to flooded wells, and mold issues.

Some tips to be safe during and after flooding events:

- **Injury Prevention:** Stay out of floodwaters. Even the strongest swimmers can drown in floodwaters. Keep children and pets away from fast moving water. Do not drive through standing water. Never make contact with power lines or objects that are in contact with power lines. Wear proper protection when cleaning up debris.
- **Water:** Check for local boil-water advisories. Do not use contaminated water to wash dishes, brush teeth, prepare food, make ice or make baby formula.
- **Well water:** If your well has been affected by floodwaters, it is recommended that you boil your water for at least one minute at a rolling boil, or obtain water from a safe source. Before resuming normal use of the well, have the water tested for possible bacteria.
- **Foods:** Do not eat foods that have been exposed to flood waters. Throw away food that cannot be kept cold or properly heated due to lack of power.
- **Carbon monoxide poisoning:** Do not use a generator, pressure washer, charcoal grill, camp stove, or other gasoline or charcoal-burning device inside your home, basement, garage, or near a window, door, or vent. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas. If carbon monoxide poisoning is suspected, seek fresh air and consult with a health care professional right away.
- **Home safety:** If there is standing water in your home, never turn power on or off yourself – contact an electrician.
- **First aid:** Immediately clean all wounds with soap and clean water. If your skin or eyes come in contact with hazardous materials wash thoroughly with decontaminated water. Avoid getting cut because cuts can lead to tetanus. If possible, make sure your tetanus vaccination is up to date.

- **Mold:** Remove mold by washing with soap and water and letting surfaces dry completely. Some materials such as moldy clothing, ceiling tiles and sheet rock may have to be replaced.

To assist the public, the health district has setup a webpage with resources including a list of local, licensed contractors. For an updated list, please visit [phd5.idaho.gov/Environment/Flood](http://phd5.idaho.gov/Environment/Flood) .

For more information about food safety, wells, drinking water, carbon monoxide, and other health related hazards during and after flooding visit [phd5.idaho.gov/Environment/Flood](http://phd5.idaho.gov/Environment/Flood).

South Central Public Health District contact numbers

Bellevue Office: 208-788-4335

Twin Falls Office: 208-737-5900

Visit our website at [phd5.idaho.gov](http://phd5.idaho.gov)

**Contact: Yvonne Humphrey (208) 737-5917**

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