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DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

www.nh.gov/hsem



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NEWS RELEASE

PRACTICE SAFETY DURING CLEAN UP AFTER STORM

CONCORD, N.H. – As flood waters recede throughout New Hampshire, the New Hampshire Department of Safety's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) asks residents and visitors to use caution during the storm cleanup.

Flood waters, standing water and flood water residue pose various risks including injuries, infectious diseases and chemical hazards.

"Storm related threats, such as downed power lines and debris in the water can be dangerous," said HSEM Director Robert Buxton. "Wear protective clothing and be cautious when cleaning up to avoid injury."

If the storm damaged your home or business, you could be eligible for assistance. If your home is your primary residence, and you sustained damage, please contact representatives at 211 or 1-866-444-4211 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday-Friday to fill out a damage report.

211 is for non-emergencies only. If you believe your home is unsafe, contact your local first responders for assistance. If you are in immediate danger from an incident such as a gas leak or structural damage, call 911.

Buxton also makes the following safety recommendations:

- Drivers should be alert for crews clearing debris and use caution.
- Throw away any food that has been exposed to temperatures 40°F for 2 or more hours or that has an unusual odor, texture, or color. When in doubt, throw it out.
- Contact your doctor if you are concerned about medications having spoiled.
- Don't use appliances or motors that have gotten wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned, and dried. Some appliances keep electrical charges even after they have been unplugged.
- Wait before entering a structure damaged by flooding. Structures that have been damaged by flooding may not be safe to enter. Wait for the building to be inspected before entering.
- Photograph damage to your property for insurance purposes.

- Clean and disinfect everything that got wet. Mud left from floodwater can contain sewage and chemicals. You can use a solution of 1 cup of bleach to 5 gallons of water to disinfect surfaces, especially those that may come into contact with food or areas where small children play.
- Look out for any mold growth after a flood and learn about the best way to address any issues that you see.

Learn more about clean-up safety at [ReadyNH.gov](https://www.ReadyNH.gov).

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