



**CALUMET COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Courthouse, 206 Court Street, Chilton, WI 53014

*Todd M. Romenesko, Director*

**Human Services**  
(920) 849-1400

**Public Health  
Home Health and Hospice**  
(920) 849-1432

**Aging & Disability Resource  
Center**  
(920) 849-1451

**Child Support**  
(920) 849-1454

**From Appleton:** (920) 989-2700

**Crisis Line:** (920) 849-9317; (920) 832-4646

**Website:** [www.co.calumet.wi.us](http://www.co.calumet.wi.us)

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## After the Flood

As a result of the recent flooding, the Calumet County Public Health is recommending that the Residents of flooded areas take the following precautions:

### Water Food Safety –

-If drinking water is cloudy, odorous, colored - DO NOT DRINK IT.

-Well water testing of private wells following a flood is encouraged. Test water kits and information regarding well decontamination are available at Calumet County Public Health 206 Court St, Room 212, Chilton, WI (920) 849-1432.

-If your refrigerator or freezer has been without power for an extended period of time, all food should be discarded. When in doubt, do not eat suspicious food.

-Garbage can attract animals and disease – bearing insects. Place food waste in waterproof containers and then place in rigid garbage container.

### Correcting Flood Damage –

-When pumping water out of basements, avoid pumping too fast, so as to prevent the outside ground pressure from causing the collapse of basement walls.

- Discard any water-damaged furnishings such as carpet, drapes, stuffed toys, upholstered furniture, mattresses, wicker furniture, ceiling tiles, and other porous items unless they can be steam cleaned or washed with hot water and thoroughly dried.

-Wash surfaces and floors with a household solution of 5 gallons of water to 1 cup of chlorine bleach.

-If sewage has backed up from your septic or municipal system through floor drains into your basement, the area must be disinfected with the above mention chlorine solution. Anything that cannot be cleaned must be discarded.

-Dry out your home; this includes ductwork and ventilation. Microorganisms brought into the home during flooding may present a health hazard. High humidity and moist materials provide ideal environments for these microorganisms to grow. With long term increases in humidity, this

environment can foster growth in dust mites which are a major cause of allergic reactions and asthma.

- Seal all leaks (ceilings, walls, foundations) and correct improper surface drainage.
- Inspect and clean all appliances that have been in contact with water with chlorine solution
- Use gasoline or diesel powered pump, generators, and pressure washers outside only, due to the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

### **Electrical Safety –**

- If water has been present anywhere near electrical circuits and electrical equipment, turn off the power at the main breaker or fuse on the service panel. Do not attempt to restore or work on power sources without first contacting your utility.
- Avoid entering flooded basements until water has subsided due to the risk of electrocution. Should your circuit breaker be located in a flooded basement, contact your utility for a disconnect. Also be aware natural gas should be turned off.

### **Physical Hazards –**

- Avoid wading in water without proper foot protection. Debris and broken glass may be submerged and out of sight.
- Wear proper protective equipment such as eyewear, gloves, boots, when cleaning up an area.

### **Insects –**

- Wear Insect Repellent when out of doors. Mosquitoes and other insects may transmit diseases.
- Remove any standing water from containers, such as tires, dishes, cans or building material.

### **Animals –**

- Beware of wild animals which may be seeking higher ground, such as raccoons and skunks. Rabies is always a concern.
- If you receive an animal bite, or are wounded or punctured, contact your physician or local health department as soon as possible. Tetanus vaccinations may be necessary.