

#DISASTER READY

RETURNING HOME AFTER AN EVACUATION



Before Returning Home

- Returning home can be both physically and mentally challenging.
- Be aware of new hazards and safety issues created by the disaster; damaged roads, structurally weakened buildings, contaminated water, gas leaks, etc.
- Be alert for emergency services working in your area.
- Be informed about health and safety issues, including chemical spills, downed power lines, damaged roads, etc.
- Be cautious. You might be anxious to see your home but do not return before the area is declared safe by local officials.

Before You Enter Your Home

- Conduct a 360-degree inspection outside your property before entering. Focus on the details, do not rush the process.
- If you have any doubts about safety, have your home inspected by a qualified building inspector or structural engineer before entering.
- Wear the appropriate clothing and shoes for the situation. Your home and surroundings can have multiple new hazards.
- Have a working flashlight, turn it on outside before entering.
- Watch out for animals, that may be scared and bite. Have a stick to poke through debris.

Do not enter if

- You smell gas.
- Floodwaters remain around the building.
- Your home was damaged by fire and the authorities have not declared it safe.

When you Inspect Inside Your Home

- Do not smoke or use oil, gas lanterns, candles, for lighting inside until you are sure there is no leaking gas or other flammable materials present.
- If possible, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker. Check for broken or frayed wires. Do not turn on the power until you are sure it is safe to use. You may want to have an electrician inspect your wiring.
- Roof, foundation, and chimney cracks. If it looks like the building may collapse, leave immediately.
- Appliances: If appliances are wet, unplug appliances and let them dry out and do not turn.
- Water and sewage systems. If pipes are damaged, turn off the main water valve. Check with local authorities before using any water.
- Throw out all food and other supplies that you suspect may have become contaminated or come in to contact with floodwater.
- Carefully open cabinets. Be alert for objects that may fall.
- Disinfect items that may have been contaminated by raw sewage, bacteria, or chemicals.
- Take pictures of damages. Keep good records of damages, repair, and cleaning costs.

BE PREPARED



ADVISORY

WATCH

WARNING

Are you #DisasterReady?

