










STORM PREPAREDNESS

State Assistance Information Line 1-800-342-3557 • FloridaDisaster.org

CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY

Carbon Monoxide (CO)

CO is an invisible, odorless and tasteless gas that is very deadly. Inhaling CO can cause fatigue, weakness, chest pains for people with heart disease, shortness of breath, stomach pain, vomiting, headaches, confusion, lack of coordination, vision problems, loss of consciousness, and in severe cases, death.

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|---|--|--|--|---|--|
|  GENERATOR EXHAUST | Risk Factors for Exposure Include |  OPEN FLAME GRILL FUMES |  NAUSEA VOMITING | Poisoning Signs and Symptoms Include |  DIZZINESS WEAKNESS |
|  VEHICLES USED INSIDE | |  LANTERN FUEL EXHAUST |  CHEST PAIN |  CONFUSION |  HEADACHE |

*You can't see or smell carbon monoxide.
If you start to feel sick, dizzy or weak get to fresh air immediately.*

Portable Generators Produce High Levels of CO Very Quickly

- Never use a generator indoors!
- Always keep portable generators or gasoline engines outside and at least 20 feet away from your home.
- Do not burn charcoal or gas grills inside a house or garage, vehicle, tent, or fireplace.

CO Alarms Save Lives

- Install battery-operated CO alarms or plug-in CO alarms with battery backup in every room of your home.
- Test your CO alarms regularly.

CO Poisoning

For severe CO poisoning, call 911 or the Florida Poison Information Center at 1-800-222-1222.

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BOIL WATER ADVISORY

Make your Water Safe, Boil It

- Once the water reaches a rolling boil, let it boil for one minute.
- Boil tap water even if it is filtered.

If Unable to Boil, Disinfect It

If tap water is CLEAR:

- Use unscented bleach (does not contain added scent).
- Add 1/8 teaspoon (8 drops or about 0.75 milliliters) of unscented household liquid bleach to 1 gallon (16 cups) of water.
- Mix well and wait 30 minutes or more before drinking.

If tap water is CLOUDY:

- Filter water using clean cloth.
- Use unscented bleach (does not contain added scent).
- Add 1/8 teaspoon (8 drops or about 0.75 milliliters) of unscented household liquid bleach to 1 gallon (16 cups) of water. Mix well and wait 30 minutes.
- If the water remains cloudy, add an additional 1/8 teaspoon of bleach. Mix well and wait 30 minutes.
- If still cloudy after the second treatment, dispose of water and start the process over again, OR use bottled water.

Store water in clean, disinfected containers.

Preparing and Cooking Food

Always use clean or bottled water to:

- Wash all fruits and vegetables before eating.
- Make drinks, such as coffee and tea.

Ice

- Do not use ice from ice trays, ice dispensers, or ice makers. Use only commercially available ice until the Boil Water Notice has been lifted.

Bathing and Brushing Teeth

- Be careful not to swallow any water when bathing or showering.
- Brush teeth with boiled or bottled water.

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ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Electrical Hazards Can Cause Burns, Shocks, and Potential Electrocutation

- Always assume that all overhead wires are energized, or “live,” and at lethal voltages.
- Never touch a fallen overhead power line. If an overhead wire falls across your vehicle while you are driving, stay inside the vehicle and continue to drive away from the line.
- Never operate electrical equipment while you are standing in water or in the rain.
- Have a qualified electrician inspect electrical equipment that was made wet to ensure that no water remains within the unit.

Always report all fallen electrical lines to your local utility provider.

Stay Indoors During a Storm

- Avoid washing your hands, taking a bath or shower, as lightning strikes can cause electrical charges to travel through water lines.
- Stay away from windows and doors. Debris can come through windows if unprotected.
- Do not to lie down on concrete floors or lean against concrete walls, which can conduct electricity.

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FOOD SAFETY

FOOD SERVICE SAFETY FOR DISASTER-RELATED PUBLIC FEEDING STATIONS

Wash Hands Thoroughly with Soap and Clean Water

- After using the bathroom.
- Before handling any food or consumables.
- When switching between raw and cooked foods.
- When hands become contaminated.

Wear Gloves

- Before handling any food.
- Never re-use or wash gloves, only use single-serve.
- Change gloves once they become soiled or discolored.
- Make sure to wash hands before wearing a new pair of gloves

Food Preparation Safety

- Keep soap and paper towels at all hand-washing stations.
- Keep hot foods at 135° F or above.
- Keep cold foods at 41° F or below.
- Cook foods thoroughly.
- Cool hot foods rapidly from 135° F to 70° F, within 2 hours of preparation and within a total of 6 hours from 135° F to 41° F or below.
- If possible, do not keep leftovers.
- Thaw foods in the refrigerator.
- **WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT.**

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PRIVATE WELL WATER

During Flooding

If your well is affected by flood waters, there may be disease-causing organisms in your water making it unsafe to drink.

The Florida Department of Health recommends you **do ONE of the following**:

- 1 Boil tap water** and hold it at a rolling boil for at least one minute. Let it cool completely before using to avoid burns.
- 2 Disinfect tap water** by adding eight drops of plain, unscented household bleach (4-6% strength), per gallon of water. If a higher strength bleach is used (8.25% strength), only add seven drops of bleach. Mix the solution and let it stand for 30 minutes. If the water is cloudy after 30 minutes, repeat the procedure one more time. If still cloudy after the second treatment, dispose of water and start the process over again, OR use bottled water.
 - Always store water in a clean, closed container.
- 3 Use commercially available bottled water**, especially for mixing baby formula.

After Flooding

Learn about testing your well water by scanning the QR code below or visit FloridaHealth.gov/environmental-health/private-well-testing/index.html.



Find Out if your Water is Safe

Have it tested by a certified laboratory for coliform bacteria by scanning the QR code below or visit FloridaDEP.gov/DEAR/Florida-DEP-laboratory/content/nelap-certified-laboratory-search.



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SEPTIC TANKS

For Residential Septic Systems

If your home is served by a septic tank and your plumbing is slow or sluggish:

- Minimize water use as much as possible.
- Do not have the septic tank pumped. Exceptionally high-water tables might cause the surrounding area to cave into a septic tank that was pumped dry.
- If using your plumbing creates a sanitary problem, consider renting a portable waste receptacle.
- Do not have the septic tank and drainfield repaired until the flood water has receded.

Flooding and Electrical Outages Impact Sewer Systems

Use less water until power and other services have been fully restored, and there is no visible sewage on the ground.

- While pump stations and sewage treatment plants are out of power, avoid adding additional water to sewer lines.
- Report any sewage spills to your local utility providers.
- Remove absorbent household materials such as wall coverings, cloth and drywall. If sewage backs up into your house, wear foot coverings, such as rubber boots, and waterproof gloves during cleanup.
- Thoroughly clean hard-surfaced walls and floors, counter tops, refrigerators, and surfaces.