

SAFETY MATTERS

National Preparedness Month - Floods

September is [National Preparedness Month](#), a time to raise awareness and make sure solid waste workers are ready for disasters and emergencies that can happen at any time.

Many hurricanes and other natural disasters involve flooding. These tips can help you stay safe both during and after a flood.

- Almost half of flood fatalities are vehicle-related. If the water is rising around your vehicle, you should abandon it.
- Never try to cross flooded roadways if you don't know the water depth. Turn Around, Don't Drown!
- Stay far away from downed or damaged power lines and report them immediately.
- Make sure tree limbs and other debris are not in contact with power lines before moving them.
- Gasoline and diesel-powered generators release carbon monoxide, which is deadly, colorless, and odorless. Only operate them outdoors and never inside confined spaces.
- Lifting heavy, wet debris after a flood can increase risk of back, knee, and shoulder injuries. Use proper lifting techniques and teams of two or more to move bulky or heavy items.
- Floodwaters may be contaminated with sewage, dead animals, rotting food, etc. Avoid contact with floodwaters and clean yourself thoroughly if you do touch it.



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