



Tom Barrett
Mayor

Bevan K. Baker, FACHE
Commissioner of Health

Raquel M. Filmanowicz
Health Operations Administrator

Health Department

Family and Community Health Services

web site: www.milwaukee.gov/health

For Immediate Release
July 23, 2010

Media Contacts: Kawanza Newson Jodie Tabak
414-286-3548 Office 414-286-8504
414-732-7250 Mobile 414-708-7963

City of Milwaukee Health Department Provides Information on Clean-up of Flood Water

Residents should call 286-CITY or 286-2489 to report flooded basements or streets

The City of Milwaukee Health Department offers residents the following tips on how to safely clean affected areas due to flooding:

- Do not wade into standing water in your basement unless you are sure the electricity to your home is off.
- Unless you are certain basement flood waters came from around the foundation or from window wells you should **assume it contains sewage**.
- **Minimize skin exposure** by wearing rubber boots and gloves and keep children and pets away from flood contaminated surfaces.
- As soon as the water is drained away all wet items should be cleaned and thoroughly dried within 48 hours of flooding to **prevent the growth of mold**.
- When cleaning, items should first be washed with soap and water to remove visible debris and dirt. A disinfecting solution of ½ to ¾ cup household bleach to 1 gallon of water should then be applied to the surface and allowed to air dry.
- **Promptly fix any leaks** in your home's roof, walls, or plumbing to eliminate moisture that could promote mold growth.
- **Discard wet carpet, rugs, and upholstery that cannot be easily cleaned** to prevent mold growth.
- Keep the humidity level in your home between 40% and 60% **to prevent mold growth**.

MHD's "Flood Clean-up Tips" is available at www.milwaukee.gov/health and the City of Milwaukee home page: www.milwaukee.gov.

Think Health. Act Now!