

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 23, 2013  
Contact: Chris Adams

### Residents Should Be Careful When Cleaning Up After A Flood

Clean up after a flood or flooded basement is very frustrating. Often times it leaves a big mess and plenty of garbage. However, there are several items that should be considered when cleaning up after a flood or flooded basement.

Residents need to take precautions when cleaning up their flooded house. If there has been a back-flow of sewage into the house, remove and discard any absorbent household materials, such as wall coverings, cloth, rugs, and sheetrock. Be sure to wear rubber boots and waterproof gloves during clean-up. Residents should always wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after handling articles contaminated with floodwater or sewage, before eating, preparing food or handling a baby or any other activity that involves touching something that may enter a person's mouth.

Personal hygiene is very important when dealing with flood clean up. Do not allow children to play in floodwater or areas that have been flooded. Wash their hands frequently, especially before meals. Contaminated toys should be disinfected in a solution of one ounce of bleach (1/8 cup) in two gallons of water.

As residents place items out on the curb to be discarded, it is important to know that these items have been contaminated with flood water or sewage. Items such as these should not be donated or picked, in order to prevent illness or injury from occurring. Residents dealing with flooded or damaged household items should also document, and take pictures of these items for recovery purposes. For more information about flood clean up and safety. Visit the McDonough County Health Department's website at [www.mchdept.com](http://www.mchdept.com) or call us at (309)837-9951.