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After the Storm Safety Tips

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Indian River County, FL. – Department of Health in Indian River County encourages all residents to take precautions while recovering from the effects of this week’s record rainfall event in Vero Beach. Cheryl Dunn, Environmental Manager, advises that “there are many hazards after a storm and preventive actions will keep you and your family safe.” Ms. Dunn encourages all residents to follow these safety tips:

Heavy rains and flooding can lead to an increase in mosquitoes that can cause disease.

- Empty or turn over anything around your home that could hold water.
- Cover your skin with clothing and use mosquito repellent.
- Cover doors and windows with screens to keep mosquitoes out.

Be careful when cleaning-up after a storm event as this is when most injuries occur.

- Clean up debris carefully to avoid injury and contamination.
- Wear protective gear such as gloves, goggles, earplugs, pants and work boots when appropriate
- Chainsaws should only be operated by people that are experienced in proper use.
- Take care lifting heavy objects and while on ladders.
- Drink cool, nonalcoholic beverages, take a cool shower, wear lightweight clothing, and rest in an air-conditioned environment to prevent heat exhaustion.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless, tasteless gas and is highly poisonous.

- Don’t use gas-powered generators or pressure washers indoors not even in the garage.
- Use a battery operated Carbon Monoxide alarm.
- Get fresh air immediately if you feel sick, dizzy or weak.

Heavy rains and flooding may cause issues with the functioning of waste water disposal and drainage systems.

- Practice water conservation reducing water use.
- Avoid contact with flood waters as they may be contaminated by sewage.
- Wash hands and/or take a shower if you are exposed to flood waters.
- Pumping your tank may not help if your property is flooded and your septic is backing-up into your home.
- Let flood waters subside and clean the affected areas.
- Wash and disinfect children’s toys with ¼ cup bleach to 1 gallon of water.

For more information on after storm safety go to www.floridadisaster.org or call 772-794-7440.

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