

Flooding Safety in Residential Construction

It is important to know how to prepare for a flood if your jobsite is prone to such disasters. Proper response procedures should also be taken into consideration after a flooding event.

Common Hazards and Workplace Controls

1) Electrical Hazards

Common Hazards Include:

- **Electrocution** by contact with downed energized lines.
- **Falls** from heights.
- **Struck by** fallen poles and other objects.
- **Burns** from fires caused by energized line contact or equipment failure.

Workplace Controls:

- If water has been present anywhere near electrical circuits and electrical equipment, **turn off the power** at the main breaker or fuse on the service panel.
- **Never enter flooded areas** or touch electrical equipment if the ground is wet.
- Stay clear of **fallen poles and powerlines**. Report the incident to the responsible authority.
- Repairing of downed electrical lines should be performed by **utility company workers or other properly trained workers**.

2) Rodents, Snakes, and Insects

- **Wear** long pants, socks, and long-sleeved shirts to protect yourself from insect bites.
- **Avoid contact** with wild animals or wear protective gloves if needed.
- If bitten or scratched, **seek medical attention immediately**.
- If you see a snake, **step back** and allow it to proceed.
- Be sure to **wear heavy gloves** while removing debris.
- If bitten by a snake, **seek medical attention immediately** in the case it is venomous.

3) Chemical and Biological Hazards

Common Hazards Include:

- Liquefied Petroleum Gases
- Underground Storage Tanks
- Broken Chemical Containers

Workplace Controls:

- Wear **chemical-resistant outer clothing**.
- Practice **good hygiene**.
- Provide **medical surveillance**.
- **Discard** all food.
- **Avoid** entering the water if possible.

4) Drowning and Safe Driving

- **Avoid** entering moving water if possible.
- **Do not work alone** if you need to enter moving water.
- **Wear Coast Guard-approved personal flotation devices (PFD)** when working in or near water.
- Know how water at different depths can affect your vehicle:

