



Flood Clean-up Teams **Safety Considerations**

Information for clean-up team members before arrival on-site

Thank you for helping with the clean-up. We hope these safety guidelines will help keep you safe while on a flood impacted site.

Be Prepared

The sites will be wet, dirty and smelly.

Common hazards following a flood

There are a number of residual risks following a flood that you should be aware before returning to a flood affected site. These include, but are not limited to the potential for:

- structural damage and risk of collapse
- damage to materials that could be a risk to your health including asbestos
- exposure to live electricity and water damaged electrical systems
- gas leaks
- contamination from the sewer system and/or spilt chemicals
- contaminated food
- contaminated water supplies
- slip, trip or fall hazards
- snakes and spiders that may have entered the building to escape the flood waters
- mosquitos carrying disease.

What to Wear

- Gumboots or solid boots with good grip soles
- Solid gloves (that are not easy to cut)
- Long sleeves and long pants
- Eye protection
- A P2 mask if you have one, if not please bring a surgical mask

What to bring

- Clean drinking water (do not drink the water from the site)
- A change of clothes (just in case)
- A torch
- Hand sanitiser

What to expect when you get to the site

Please follow the directions of the SES or other emergency response agencies.

Clearance for re-entry

Before any clean-up activities can start, the site must be checked for **structural damage**, **gas leaks** and **electrical safety**. Your team leaders will have been liaising with the Property team about the necessary clearances.

Initial Assessment

Once clearance has been provided, your team leaders will carry out a walk-through of the site to identify any obvious hazards and risks and determine the best approach to the clean-up.



Pre-entry site induction

Before you commence any work, you should be briefed on:

- the status of the pre-entry clearances (e.g. structural, gas and electrical)
- any identified hazards and risk
- the proposed approach to the clean-up
- allocation of clean-up tasks.

DO NOT ENTER the site unless you have been briefed on the status of clearances, identified hazards/risks and approach to the clean-up.

Hazardous manual tasks

Clean-up following a flood can be a very manual process. Please use materials handling equipment wherever possible. This might include:

- Shovels and brooms
- Wheelbarrows and trolleys

When lifting remember to ...

- Plan the lift - think about where you need to move the load
- Clear the path
- Move in as close to the load as possible
- Use your legs - bend your knees not your back
- Keep the load close to your body
- Do not twist while lifting or moving.