ASSESS FLOOD DAMAGE

SAFETY FIRST - DO NOT ENTER YOUR PROPERTY IF....

1. ***Flood water remains*** in or around the building; This water may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.

2. ***Natural Gas*** - If you smell gas or hear a hissing sound, do not enter. Turn off the main gas valve from the outside. When in doubt, call the gas company.

3. ***Structural Damage*** - Look for erosion around the building foundation and damage to the exterior walls including wall or roof sagging. Call a professional to assess the situation.

4. ***Electrical Safety*** - Call the power company; Has the building been deemed safe for entry? Turn off the power at your electrical panel. Unplug Equipment. Have the electrical checked by a licensed electrician.

5. ***Flooded Basements*** - Should be pumped out gradually; Walls may collapse and floors may buckle if basements are pumped out while the surrounding grounds are still water logged.

6. ***Water and Sewage Systems*** - Listen to news reports to determine if the community water supply is safe to drink. If water or sewer pipes are damaged, turnoff the main water valve.

7. ***Felled trees:*** The root system is the portion of trees affected by flooding as a result of low oxygen conditions. A leaning trunk, exposed roots, and/or leaf yellowing/browning/wilting are signs of pending structural failure.

Treat your property like a construction site; Wet surfaces and debris cause significant slip, trip and fall hazards. Debris can also contain exposed nails; it is recommended that your tetanus shot be current (must be updated every 10 years). Flood waters can also contain sewage and chemicals and represent a serious health hazard. The longer your property remains wet, the more likely the wet material will contain mold, bacteria, viruses and other micro-organisms.

What to Bring with You

- A water restoration professional, building maintenance personnel or a trade contractor. A flood damaged facility is NOT a place to walk around by yourself; use the buddy system.
- A camera or video equipment to document site conditions and damaged building materials/contents.
- Proper safety equipment including work boots and work clothing, gloves, respirator and a good flashlight.

What to Look For:

1. ***Exterior Grounds*****:** Damage to landscaping, parking lots, walkways, lawns, missing items, etc. Debris which may also have to be removed. Uncovered (previously buried) lines due to extensive soil erosion.

2. ***Building Exterior*****:** Cracks on wall and foundations; take photos of how the water reached. Damage to utility connections.

3. ***Interiors*****:** Check for cracks or signs of water impact to the walls and floors. Are carpets wet? Has floor tile began to pop or loosen?

4. ***Basement*****:** Is there standing water? Note the height of the water line. What equipment has been affected. What affects has it had on the crawl space?

5. **Roof:** Check for ponding or damaged/missing shingles or roof membrane. Check all rooftop penetrations including flashings around skylights, stack vents, vent pipes, HVAC equipment, etc.

Getting Started (Building Custodial/Maintenance Staff or Homeowners)

- Remove/wet vacuum any standing water
- Dispose of unwanted, wet porous items
- Clean out all mud and debris in contact with wood panels, studs, joists and beams.
- Remove carpeting and padding.
- Open up interior doors to allow any other wet cavities to allow air to circulate freely.
- Commence drying as soon as possible.
- Water damage cleanup can be performed safely by informed persons on small projects (usually less than 30 sf) provided response is commenced within 48-72 hours. Where water damage exceeds 72 hours, professional help is recommended.

AET specializes in rapid response to water damage events. AET's building scientists and engineers have proven decision-making expertise and sustainable solutions to get your facility back to normal day-to-day operations following a water infiltration episode.

Please contact Mr. Roy Mosicant, CIH or Mr. Harris Brody CIH at 610-891-0114 or 1-800-9696-AET to answer your environmental concerns.