irwin siegel agency
RISK MANAGEMENT DIVISION

PREVENTING ILLNESS

Prevent Illness From Food

- Throw away food that may have spoiled or come into contact with flood or storm water. Cans that are bulging, opened or damaged should also be thrown away. Throw away foods that have an unusual odor, color or texture or that have been above 40 degrees for 2 or more hours.

Prevent Illness from Water

- Consult authorities as to the safety of your water. If unsafe, use bottled water or boil for cooking, cleaning or bathing.
- For infants-only use pre-prepared canned baby formula. Do not use powdered formulas prepared with treated water.

Prevent Other Illnesses and Injuries

- Prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Do not heat your home with a gas oven.
  If your carbon monoxide detector sounds, leave your house immediately and call 911.
- Avoid floodwater and mosquitoes: avoid standing water. Prevent mosquito bites by wearing long pants, socks and long-sleeved shirts and by using insect repellent.
- Avoid unstable buildings and structures: stay away from damaged buildings or structures until they are examined and certified as safe.
- Beware of downed power lines: NEVER touch a fallen power line. Call the power company to report.
  In case of power outage, never burn candles near flammable items or leave candles unattended.
  Use flashlights or other battery operated lights.
- Clean up and prevent mold growth: clean up and dry out within 24-48 hours. Use fans as necessary. To prevent mold growth, clean wet items and surfaces with detergent and water. To remove mold, wear rubber gloves and clean with a bleach solution of 1 cup bleach in 1 gallon of water. Throw away porous items like carpet and upholstered furniture that cannot be dried quickly.
- Wear protective gear for clean up: gloves, goggles, and watertight boots should be worn. Remember to wash your hands with soap and water after taking off gloves.
  If water is not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Treat any open cuts and wounds with soap and clean water. Apply antibiotic ointment and contact a medical professional if it becomes red, swollen, or drains.

Information courtesy of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2017.

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EQUIPMENT PROTECTION

If equipment, machinery, or electrical systems have been exposed to flood waters, they may be significantly damaged. Water, silt, or other contaminants are likely inside the equipment. Starting or testing equipment without proper cleaning can result in damage or complete destruction.

DRY AND CLEAN BEFORE USING

Taking precautions such as drying, cleaning, or lubricating equipment can help avoid equipment failure. The following tips are provided by the Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company.

Boilers

If you know a loss of power is likely to occur, effective preparations can help to lessen possible damage to your organization.

- Carefully inspect foundations and settings of boilers for settlement. Do not operate a boiler if there is any evidence that the foundation has been compromised.
- Make sure the setting (brickwork, refractory, and insulation materials) is thoroughly dry.
- Use portable heaters where necessary.
- All safety appliances, such as safety and relief valves, steam gage, water column, high and low-water cutouts, and blow down must be cleaned and repaired as needed.
- All controls must be inspected and tested before operation, especially the water level control and low-water fuel cutoffs.
- Burners should not be fired until checked by a burner technician. An explosion may occur if the combustion controls do not function properly.
- Boilers should not be operated if proper feed water is not available. If operation is essential, and if feed water contains mud, it will be necessary to blow down the boiler every eight hours and to open and clean the boiler at least once per week until proper water quality is re-established.

Electrical Equipment

- DO NOT ENERGIZE equipment which has been flooded until properly cleaned, dried out, and until insulation has been tested. This includes enclosures, bus ducts, conduit, and cables.
- Windings in electric machinery should not be dried at temperatures exceeding the rating of its insulation system. In general, a maximum temperature of 194 degrees F or 90 degrees C may be used. Check with the manufacturer for equipment specific information and recommendations.
- Dry type transformers should be cleaned and thoroughly dried as described for windings. Oil filled transformers should be thoroughly inspected for damage and oil samples should be drawn from top and bottom for lab analysis. The laboratory should be instructed to include a Karl Fisher test for water content. Maximum water content is 35 ppm. If water is found in the oil tank, the oil charge must be renovated by a competent service firm.

Before Operating Machinery

- Contact the manufacturer for recommendations.
- Inspect foundations for cracking, weakness, or settlement. If settlement is suspected, check and correct alignment of all shafting, and check all stationary components for level.
- Inspect all machine internals for silt accumulations and clean as needed.
- Open the cylinders of all reciprocating engines or compressors and remove foreign material or water.
- Drain and clean lubrication systems. Wipe oil containing elements with lint-free rags and refill with new lubricants as required.
- Carefully clean and TEST governors and controls.

Contact the ISA Risk Management Division today for more information on these and other risk management services and resources.
Call 800-622-8272 or email riskmanagement@siegelagency.com.