

Neal & Davis, PLLC
Attorneys and Counselors at Law
931 Main Street
Post Office Box 40
Shelbyville, Kentucky 40066-0040

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Floodwaters can present hidden dangers

Floodwaters are more than a threat to property. They can also be a danger to your health and safety. Swiftly moving shallow water can present a drowning hazard. Even shallow standing water can be dangerous to small children.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends these precautions when encountering floodwater after a disaster or emergency.

- ◆ Follow warnings about flooded roads, and don't drive into flooded areas. Cars and trucks can be swept away or stall in moving water.
- ◆ Stay out of floodwater. It may contain downed power lines;

human and livestock waste; chemical waste; physical objects such as lumber, vehicles, and debris; as well as rodents, snakes and other wild or stray animals.

- ◆ Avoid floodwater if you have an open wound. Contaminated water can cause wound infections, skin rash, intestinal illnesses and tetanus. Cover clean, open wounds with waterproof bandaging.
- ◆ If you come into contact with floodwater, wash well with soap and clean water as soon as possible, paying particular attention to

any open wounds. If you don't have access to soap and water, use alcohol-based wipes or sanitizer. Seek medical attention if a wound develops redness, swelling or oozing.

- ◆ Wash clothes contaminated with flood or sewage water in hot water and detergent.



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