

Keeping Safe

- ◆ Follow public announcements and obey official orders.
- ◆ Do not ride, drive, or walk through flooded areas.
- ◆ Never go around a police barricade.
- ◆ If you must work in or near floodwater, wear a life jacket.
- ◆ Wear protective clothing—a hard hat, goggles, heavy work gloves, and watertight boots with steel toes and insoles (not just steel shanks).
- ◆ Avoid unstable buildings and structures.
- ◆ Beware of electrical and fire hazards:
 - Never touch any building, car, or other item that is touching a fallen power line.
 - Never touch an overhead power line.
 - Do not burn candles near flammable items or leave candles unattended. If possible, use flashlights or other battery-operated lights instead of candles.
 - Call an electrician or power company to report a downed power line or power outage.
- ◆ Beware of gas leaks:
 - Do not use flames or sparking devices until you are sure that no natural gas is leaking in the area.
 - Never turn the gas back on by yourself. Contact your local utility company to restore your gas service.
- ◆ Prevent carbon monoxide poisoning:
 - Do not use a portable generator, charcoal grill, camp stove, or other gasoline- or charcoal-burning device in any enclosed or partially enclosed area—even if the area is ventilated. Fans and open doors and windows will not prevent carbon monoxide from building up in the home.
 - If you start to feel sick, dizzy, or weak while using a generator or other gasoline/charcoal burning device, get to fresh air right away. Seek prompt medical care.
- ◆ Store and transport gasoline safely:
 - Always use an approved red safety container that has a warning label about the dangers of gasoline. Do not use a glass container or a used metal container that has held other petroleum products.
 - Fill the container to only 95 percent capacity to allow for heat expansion.
 - Before loading a filled, portable gasoline container into a vehicle, make sure that the cap and air vent cap are tight. Secure the container so it doesn't tip in transit.
- ◆ Beware of wild or stray animals. Call local authorities to handle them.
- ◆ Beware of snakes:
 - Wear snake-proof boots that are at least 10 inches high, or wear snake leggings.
 - Use a poking stick to announce your approach.
 - If you are bitten by a poisonous snake, don't try to treat the bite yourself. Go to the nearest hospital or clinic immediately. Note the appearance of the snake so you can describe it to a doctor.
- ◆ Avoid mosquitoes and other insects. Wear long pants, socks, and long-sleeved shirts. Use insect repellents that contain DEET or Picaridin.
- ◆ Pace yourself and get support. Try not to work alone.
- ◆ Prevent injuries:
 - Use teams of people to move bulky objects.
 - Do not lift anything weighing more than 50 pounds (per person).
 - When lifting heavy debris, bend your knees and lift with your legs, not your back.
- ◆ Wear sunscreen.
- ◆ Treat wounds:
 - Clean scratches, burns or cuts with soap and clean water.
 - Apply an antibiotic ointment.
 - Seek medical attention immediately if a wound swells or drains and if you have not had a tetanus booster in the past few years.

