

The document provides essential safety tips and procedures for homeowners dealing with flood damage. Before entering a flood-affected home, it is crucial to assess structural integrity, ensuring there is no risk of collapse, and to turn off electricity. Caution is advised when entering, as there may be hidden dangers such as sagging ceilings or gas leaks. Flood waters can contaminate surfaces and items, so it is important to treat anything touched by flood water as hazardous. Electrical safety is emphasized, including disconnecting power and having an electrician inspect the system before reactivation. Food and water safety guidelines are provided, advising against consuming anything exposed to flood waters and recommending boiling water until deemed safe by authorities.

The cleanup process should begin promptly, with recommendations to drain basements gradually to avoid structural damage and to remove mud and disinfect affected areas. Essential safety devices, such as gas control valves and circuit breakers, should be replaced if submerged. Personal health and safety are highlighted, with advice on managing stress and fatigue during cleanup, as well as the importance of using protective equipment. The document also stresses the need to avoid flooded areas and to stay informed about local conditions and assistance available from organizations like the American Red Cross. Homeowners are encouraged to contact their insurance agents for claims and to ensure any hired contractors are qualified. The information serves as a general advisory and is not a substitute for legal or professional advice.