

“We continue to pray for you during your time of recovery.” -Jim Beck

Links to post-hurricane tips and information are provided at the bottom of the page.

The following tips are provided to you by the Department of Housing and Urban Development for your information.

1. Remind yourself often **to put people before property!** Make safety your top priority.
2. **Wear personal protective equipment (PPE)**, including protective clothing and a NIOSH-approved respirator, every time you set foot in a damaged or moldy building.
3. **Assess** structural stability and hidden hazards before you enter. A professional inspection may be needed.
4. **Prepare a plan** for site work (supplies and methods), **make a map** (disposal and clean-up site layout), and **review** insurance policies and disaster assistance resources.
5. **Go slow** when pumping out water, then **act fast** to dry out and remove mold. Read, copy and share the DIY Mold Removal Guidelines sheet from the Rebuild Healthy Homes guidebook.
6. **Always remove wet insulation and foam padding**, even if the surface looks dry and clean.
7. **Assume lead-based paint and asbestos** are in homes built before 1978 (unless verified not present). Be mindful that disturbing such materials increases the hazard.
8. **Control dust, capture debris and contain contaminants** – with wet methods, drop cloths, debris bags, HEPA vacuums and workers trained in safe work practices.
9. **Check credentials** and hire only licensed and insured contractors, Lead-Safe Certified Renovators and certified asbestos professionals. Examine qualifications of mold remediation, fire and water damage restoration and other professionals. Check with your local contractor licensing agency, permit office and health department for requirements and lists.
10. **Restore for more than before!** Install hazard-resistant materials, connectors and building systems. Include energy-saving and **healthy home improvements**

Find more information and resources at the links below:

HUD: https://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=Consumer_Brochure_2015_DR.pdf

FEMA: <https://www.fema.gov/small-business-program#>

GEMA: <http://www.gema.ga.gov/Recovery/Pages/Public-and-Local-Govt-Asst.aspx>

RED CROSS: <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/hurricane#After>

SALVATION ARMY: <http://disaster.salvationarmyusa.org/>