



### **Make worker safety a priority during flood cleanup**

*See KYSAFE safety tips to avoid common hazards*

With flood cleanup efforts continuing in the commonwealth, KYSAFE reminds Kentucky employers of their responsibility to properly train, equip and monitor employees participating in these activities.

Workers involved in cleanup efforts may encounter mold, biohazards, hypothermia, falls and many other additional hazards. To help reduce injuries, KYSAFE has compiled some useful tips to protect workers and help employers avoid risks:

- Stay away from downed power lines and leave repairs for trained electrical utility workers.
- To avoid the risk of tetanus, wear heavy gloves, boots, eye protection, long pants, long sleeves and head protection to minimize cuts and scrapes from sharp debris.
- Wear gloves, chaps, head, eye and hearing protection when operating chainsaws. Only use equipment rated for wet conditions that have hand guards. Inspect chain brakes and throttle lockouts to ensure they are functioning properly before use.
- Wear protective clothing, goggles, gloves and boots to mitigate exposure to chemical or biological hazards. Always thoroughly wash hands after cleanup.
- Select proper clothing when working in wet and/or cold conditions. Take frequent breaks in warm, dry, sheltered areas, and avoid working alone or becoming overly fatigued.



- As daytime temperatures increase, workers should be monitored for signs of heat stress, whether working outside or in facilities where climate can't be controlled due to air system outages.
  - Allow employees to gradually acclimate to hot working conditions.
  - Employees should be monitored and provided with water, rest breaks and shade if working outdoors.
  - Be prepared for heat illness emergencies and have a plan to act.
- Only use gas and diesel-powered generators outdoors to prevent exposure to carbon monoxide – a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas.
- Wear an N-95 respirator, eye protection and hand protection when working in areas where mold is present. Ensure the work area is well ventilated and avoid mixing bleach with cleaning products that contain ammonia when cleaning surfaces.
- Use proper fall protection such as a harness and lanyard tied to anchor points when working at elevated levels. Wear slip-resistant footwear and be cautious on slick or unstable surfaces.
- Prevent back, knee and shoulder injuries by using proper lifting techniques. Use teams of two or more to move large or heavy objects.



For additional information, visit [osha.gov/flood](https://www.osha.gov/flood) or [weather.gov/safety/flood](https://www.weather.gov/safety/flood).

This message is brought to you by the Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet's Division of Occupational Safety and Health Education and Training (KYSAFE). KYSAFE offers free and confidential consultation and training services for employers who wish to proactively identify and address workplace safety and health hazards. The program also builds alliances with Kentucky employers to promote worker safety through high-quality education and technical assistance. Visit [kysafe.ky.gov](https://kysafe.ky.gov) to learn more about our free services.