



After a Wildfire or Flood – Health Related Information

The following information offers assistance on what to do after a fire or flood:

Food Safety. Since electric power may have been off for at several days, certain refrigerated foods may need to be thrown out:

- ✓ All leftovers or cooked foods, raw meats, and lunchmeats
- ✓ Any dairy products including cheeses, eggs, seed sprouts, cut melons
- ✓ Prepared foods such as store-bought deli salads

You can safely keep things like ketchup, mustard, jams/jellies and pickles/relish. Be sure to check fruits and vegetables for mold. Canned and packaged foods in pantries are safe unless exposed to extreme fire heat or flood waters.

Check frozen food for thawing and refreezing that might have happened when the power was lost and then restored (example: large ice crystals in the food, or frozen liquid at the bottom of container). If refreezing is obvious throw away product.

If in doubt, throw it out! For more information call CCHHS: 928-679-8750

Private Wells. If your home or business is on a private well and was affected by the fire or flood you may have to take some precautions.

- ✓ See enclosed brochure *Private Wells After the Fire*
- ✓ For more information call Arizona Department of Environmental Quality at 602-771-2300.

Septic Systems. Due to the wide range of septic system types, it is recommended that routine maintenance be performed as appropriate for your specific system; these guidelines are listed in the septic system Owner Operation and Maintenance Manual.

- ✓ Certain systems could be adversely affected by lack of use during prolonged absence
- ✓ Additional concerns might be fire retardant, water, ash, and weight of fallen debris
- ✓ For information call Coconino County Community Development at 928-679-8850.

Tetanus and First Aid. After a wildfire or flood, there is risk of injury as cleanup efforts begin. A tetanus vaccination is recommended for all individuals who have not had a documented dose within the past ten years. Prompt first aid management for wounds and prevention of infection is also very important. Contact your healthcare provider or the Coconino County Health and Human Services Clinic at 928-679-7222 for information.

Wildlife. During and after a fire or flood, wildlife may be displaced and looking for food and water.

- ✓ Do not leave pet food or water bowls outdoors
- ✓ Avoid contact with all wildlife, as they may be carrying diseases such as rabies.

Animal/Livestock Issues - Large animals and livestock should remain at their current locations until residents have inspected their property for any possible hazardous conditions.

Arizona Game and Fish- To report wild or dangerous animals, contact 928-774-5045.

Pets. Be patient with your pets after a disaster. Try to get them back into their normal routines as soon as possible, and be ready for behavioral problems that may result from the stress of the situation. If behavioral problems persist, or if your pet seems to be having any health problems, talk to your veterinarian.

Coconino County Health and Human Services Animal Management - 928-679-8756

Biting Insects. While working outdoors, use an insect repellent containing DEET to prevent bites from fleas, ticks and mosquitoes.

Snakes/Rodents. When working outdoors, be aware that snakes or rodents could be hiding in trash or wood piles.

Garbage. To avoid attracting animals and flies use tightly covered containers to hold garbage.

Don't hesitate to ask for help if the stress is getting to you or someone you know.

Talking to a friend or a counselor can help. If you have any questions, please contact: The Guidance Center, 928-527-1899; Terros Health, 1-877-756-4090; Southwest Behavioral & Health resources, 928-779-4550; or other private Behavioral Health provider.

Coconino County Health and Human Services

928-679-7272

www.coconino.az.gov/hhs