

IF IT'S FLOODED FORGET IT



WHS FLOOD SAFETY GUIDE

Remember when workers are assisting with the clean up after a flood event there remains duties and obligations under WHS legislation

EMPLOYERS

Have duties to provide and maintain:

- A safe work environment
- Adequate facilities for the welfare of their workers,
- And monitor the health of their workers to prevent illness or injury

WORKERS

Have duties including:

- Taking reasonable care for their own health and safety
- Not adversely affecting the health and safety of others
- Complying, as far as reasonably able, to follow employers reasonable instruction, policy, and procedures

Highlight access to counselling services available to your workers and encourage its use

BE AWARE DURING CLEAN UP AND RECOVERY

Always follow the advice and instructions of local emergency management authorities before returning to your workplace

- Gas, electricity, water, sewerage have been checked by the relevant authorities before returning to your workplace.
- Do not use gas or electrical appliances which have been in flood water until checked by an authorised, competent person.
- Any likely asbestos containing materials or hazardous chemicals are identified.
- Consider what work needs to be done and in what order - ensuring that new risks are not introduced.
- What tools and equipment will be needed to do the work safely? People operating equipment must have the right skills and competencies, not be fatigued, and supervision is available for less skilled workers.
- Have the right personal protective equipment available and worn correctly - enclosed footwear/boots, gloves, hats, eyewear, sun protection, insect repellent, drink plenty of water.
- When dealing with flood water, mud and debris take the right steps to prevent infections - workers should cover cuts and abrasions with waterproof dressings; wash hands effectively and frequently.
- Maintaining food safety is important too, especially if power has been cut or food has come in contact with flood water. Dispose of all food that has been in contact with floodwater and has not been refrigerated for more than 4 hours.
- If using generators as part of the clean up process, ensure they are situated in well-ventilated areas preferably outside to prevent the build of toxic gases.
- Consider access to toilet facilities; first aid needs; clean drinking water; hand hygiene measures; along with known access to medical treatment in the event of an injury occurring.

For further information or assistance contact CCIQ | www.cciq.com.au | 1300 731 988