

Post-Flood Fire Safety Checklist

After a flood, a number of actions should be taken to re-establish the fire safety of the facility. These include:

Building and Grounds

- Conduct a damage assessment as soon as the area is safe to enter.
- Check for possible washouts that may have undermined roads, buildings, water mains, or gravity tank foundations.
- Provide access to building and grounds by clearing debris from outside areas.
- Check to ensure roads for fire department access are open and undamaged.
- Clear fire exits of debris and floodwater barriers (e.g., sandbags).
- Review emergency evacuation plan and adjust, if needed, to accommodate flood damage.
- Clear fire hydrants of any debris that might hinder access by the fire department.

Fire Protection Equipment

- Inspect all fire protection equipment for physical damage, including sprinkler heads, valves and pipes
- Check sprinkler valves for operation and proper settings.
- Verify water supply pressure is equal to previous reading.
- Perform a main drain test, after fully servicing the automatic sprinkler system.
- If the temperature will fall below freezing, provide temporary heating for the sprinkler system.
- Check fire pump intakes and discharges for obstruction, and clean if necessary.
- Replace fire pump electrical motors and overhaul internal combustion motors that have been under water.
- Drain or pump out all valves pits containing water or silt.
- Remove, clean and dry any fire hoses that were submerged in water.
- Test fire alarm and detection systems for proper operation.
- Inspect and clean all portable extinguishers that have been submerged.

Flammable and Combustible Liquids and Gasses

- Check flammable and combustible liquids or gas containers for damage.
- Check bulk tanks for damage, broken piping and settling of tank.

Heating and Electrical Equipment

- Have equipment that has been flooded cleaned, dried out and the electrical insulation tested.
- Have heating equipment serviced by a qualified technician before returning it to operation.
- Ensure that all cords and equipment used during recovery efforts are listed or approved for wet locations.
- Monitor portable and emergency generator use for carbon monoxide buildup, power back feeds and improper fueling.

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