

# After the Flood: Mold-Specific Resources

August 2016

In the recent past, we have seen damaging floods occur more frequently, sometimes in non-traditional areas, miles from coasts and riverbanks. Community residents, business owners, and healthcare facility executives are often left with the arduous job of cleaning up after floods, to include preventing, identifying, and getting rid of mold. The [ASPR TRACIE](#) team collected the following public messages, fact sheets, checklists, guidance documents, and other educational resources related to mold. We include pre-scripted (and, in some cases, already recorded) PSAs listed below, as they are tangible and ready to implement examples of risk communication materials that can essentially be used immediately.

## I. Tip/ Fact Sheets, and Checklists

California Department of Public Health. (n.d.). [Mold and Dampness](#).

This webpage provides information on the common sources of moisture that may lead to mold, health effects of mold, and other advice for occupants of water-damaged or moldy buildings. At the bottom of the webpage, it also provides several info sheets in both English and Spanish.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). [Basic Facts: Molds in the Environment](#).

This webpage provides facts on mold and answers questions such as: what are molds, what are some of the common indoor molds, how do molds affect people, and where are molds found. The fact sheets are also provided in multiple languages.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). [Mold after a Disaster](#).

This resource contains information related to the people at greatest risk for mold and the possible health effects mold exposure can have. It also offers tips for recognizing mold, and how to prevent mold growth.

Fairfax County (VA) Health Department. (n.d.). [Mold, Mildew and Fungi from Flooding](#).

This resource includes frequently asked questions related to mold following flooding. The information is aimed at preventing both diseases and injury by answering many common concerns and providing health tips.

Federal Emergency Management Agency. (2012). [Tips to Prevent Post-Flooding Mold at Home: Clean It, Dry It or Discard It.](#)

This resource contains tips to prevent and clean up mold in a home after flooding. It includes information specific to various materials such as wood, upholstered furniture, and carpeting.

Minnesota Department of Health. (2015). [Dealing with Mold Problems after a Flood.](#)

This resource provides information on managing mold after a flood and includes basic steps on how to clean up and remove mold.

Minnesota Department of Health. (n.d.). [Mold and Moisture in Homes.](#)

This resource provides information on how mold grows, health-related concerns, individuals who may be more vulnerable, and how to conduct a home investigation to test for mold.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (2013). [Mold Hazards during Disaster Cleanup.](#)

This two-page fact sheet contains recommendations as well as descriptions of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) safety and health standards. It provides information on mold and why it is hazardous, how the various types of building materials can be contaminated by mold, how to remediate mold depending on the size of the area to be cleaned, and how to protect workers during remediation efforts.

Reichel, C.H. (n.d.). [Mold Removal Guidelines for Your Flooded Home.](#) Louisiana State University Agricultural Center.

This two-page fact sheet provides guidelines and steps on how to remove mold from a home after flooding.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control. (n.d.). [Mold.](#)

This two-page fact sheet describes what mold is and provides steps for how to eliminate and prevent it from growing in your home.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (n.d.). [A Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture, and Your Home: Mold Cleanup Guidelines](#).

This tip sheet provides techniques on how individuals can clean up mold from various surfaces, such as such as hard surfaces and absorbent or porous materials.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (n.d.). [Fact Sheet: Mold in Schools](#).

This two-page fact sheet includes information related specifically to mold in schools. It explains why mold may be growing in schools, where it grows, possible health effects, and how to manage mold in schools.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (n.d.). [Mold Resources](#).

This webpage identifies ten facts individuals should know about mold. It also provides information on related topics such as health impacts, indoor air regulations, and mold in homes, large buildings, and schools.

## II. Public Service Announcements (PSAs), Videos, and other Media Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). [Dealing With Mold Allergies after a Disaster](#).

This written PSA script explains how mold can have negative health impacts to those with specific health conditions, and provides brief recommendations on how to deal with mold allergies after a disaster.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). [Mold Removal after a Disaster](#).

This written PSA script explains how individuals can remove mold by using a solution of one cup of bleach to one gallon of water.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). [Preparedness Tip: Mold Cleaning #1](#).

This 9-second PSA video explains that bleach and ammonia should never be mixed to clean mold as the fumes can kill.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). [Preparedness Tip: Mold Cleaning #2.](#)

This 11-second PSA video explains that if mold is seen or smelled, it should be cleaned with one cup bleach per one gallon of water.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). [Preventing Mold after a Disaster.](#)

This resource provides a written and audio PSA script explaining how to prevent and clean up mold after flooding disaster. It also provides the script as a podcast and YouTube video.

City of San Mateo (CA). (n.d.). [Public Service Announcement: Mold and Mildew.](#)

This two-page PSA contains information on mold and mildew, and includes steps on how individuals can clean up their homes.

Federal Emergency Management Agency. (2014). [Mold Clean Up In American Sign Language Narrated English and Open-Captioned.](#)

This video is provided in American Sign Language, and is narrated in English and open-captioned. It offers information on how to clean up mold after a flood, safe practice methods, products to use for cleaning, and protective clothing.

Federal Emergency Management Agency. (2014). [What to do About Mold \(in American Sign Language, with Open Captioning and English Narration\).](#)

This video is provided in American Sign Language, and is narrated in English and open-captioned. It offers information on the types of mold, hazards of mold, and how to remove mold from your home or business

New Jersey Work Environment Council. (n.d.). [Safer after Sandy Public Service Announcement – 60 seconds: The Hazards of Mold after Hurricane Sandy.](#)

This PSA script provides information on what individuals should know about the hazards of mold when rebuilding after Hurricane Sandy. NOTE: This resource is related to hurricanes, but is included, as we believe it is still relevant.

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. (2010). [Preventing and Dealing with Mold after Heavy Rains.](#)

This PSA script provides information on steps that individuals can take in order to control indoor mold growth after water damage occurs.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (n.d.). [Public Service Announcement Transcripts](#).

This webpage includes multiple PSAs containing information for people in the hurricane affected areas. A specific PSA has been developed for dealing with mold. A 30-second audio file for the mold PSA is also provided in both English and Spanish. NOTE: This resource is related to hurricanes, but is included, as we believe it is still relevant.

### III. Guidance Documents

Brandt, M., Brown, C., Burkhart, J. et al. (2006). [Mold Prevention Strategies and Possible Health Effects in the Aftermath of Hurricanes and Major Floods](#). Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR).

This report was developed as a guide for public health officials and the general public in response to the massive flooding and the anticipated mold contamination of homes and other structures along the U.S. Gulf Coast associated with hurricanes Katrina and Rita. It provides general guidelines on how to assess for the exposure of mold. NOTE: This resource is related to hurricanes, but is included, as we believe it is still relevant.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). [Remediation and Infection Control Considerations for Reopening Healthcare Facilities Closed Due to Extensive Water and Wind Damage](#).

This website provides information intended to assist healthcare facilities with the tasks involved during clean-up and reopening after extensive water and wind damage. A section is dedicated to mold remediation and structural recovery, and provides specific steps to take during remediation efforts.

D'Andrea, C., Chew, G., Damon, S., et al. (2013). [NIEHS Disaster Recovery Mold Remediation Guidance: Health and Safety Essentials for Workers, Volunteers, and Homeowners](#). National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training.

This guidance document was developed as a health and safety resource for workers, volunteers, and homeowners who will participate in disaster response and clean-up activities. It is designed to help individuals understand how to identify and control hazards from mold.

Minnesota Department of Health. (2001). [Recommended Best Practices for Mold Investigations in Minnesota Schools](#).

This document is designed to assist the Minnesota public schools staff in responding to problems related to indoor mold. Its focus is on practical, cost-effective methods to identify indoor mold problems and assess the causes.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (n.d.). [Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings](#).

This document provides guidelines and recommendations for the remediation/ clean-up of mold and moisture problems in schools and commercial buildings. It includes measures designed to protect the health of building occupants and those cleaning up the mold. Its use is primarily for building managers, custodians, and others who are responsible for commercial building and school maintenance.

#### **IV. Additional Resources**

American Academy of Pediatrics. (2005). [Clinician Recommendations Regarding Returning of Children to Areas Impacted by Flooding and/or Hurricanes](#).

This document describes how children are especially vulnerable to environmental hazards, and provides a checklist of restoration action items to complete before children should return to areas impacted by flooding or hurricanes.

Education Facilities Clearinghouse. (2015). Resources on Mold Prevention and Remediation. ([Contact ASPR TRACIE](#) for document).

This document contains links and annotations to several mold-related resources, including mold in schools and workplace, mold assessments and remediation guidelines, and guidelines and tips on how to remove mold.

Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division Health Security, Preparedness, and Response Program. (2015). [Risk Communication Toolkit for Flooding](#).

This toolkit can help local health authorities develop public messaging before, during, and after a flood event. It includes information relevant to the actual event and the recovery period: key messages, talking points, sample press releases, fact sheets, links to key resources, and sample social media messages for Twitter and Facebook.

The National Child Traumatic Stress Network. (n.d.). [Floods](#).

This resource provides information related to recovering after a flood and is specifically geared towards children and their caregivers. NOTE: This is not a mold related resource, but was forwarded to ASPR TRACIE for inclusion in this compilation.

## V. Websites

The following websites are dedicated to providing tools, links, and guidance related to mold and disasters that may cause mold.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Floods](#).

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Mold](#).

Minnesota Department of Health. [Mold and Moisture](#).

National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities. [Resource Lists: Mold in Schools](#).

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. [Resources for Mold Remediation and Prevention](#).

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. [Molds and Moisture](#).