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Door County Public Health Department News Release—Flooding #1

Safety During Flooding

At this time, areas of Door County have experienced flooding. To help you and your loved ones stay safe during this event, please:

1. Follow any broadcasted evacuation guidance.

Listen to messages being broadcast by Emergency Management, your local news media, or your local governmental leaders regarding evacuation procedures. Those living alone can be isolated and unaware of the dangers posed by flooding. Check on your neighbors, friends, and relatives.

2. Stay out of flood waters, if at all possible.

Floodwaters may contain many contaminants, including bacteria, viruses, hazardous wastes, debris, and sharp objects.

Half of all flood-related drowning occurs when a vehicle is driven into floodwaters. Most flood-related deaths and injuries could be avoided if people who come upon areas covered with water followed this simple advice: Turn Around, Don't Drown. The reason that so many people drown during flooding is because few of them realize the incredible power of water. It takes only two feet of rushing water to carry away most vehicles. This includes pickups and SUVs. If you come to an area that is covered with water, you will not know the depth of the water or the condition of the ground under the water. This is especially true at night, when your vision is more limited.

The next highest percentage of drowning is due to walking into or nearby floodwaters. A mere six inches of fast-moving flood water can knock over an adult.

3. Don't attempt to save or salvage personal items during the flood.

Wait until flooding has receded before attempting to salvage belongings. Don't attempt to enter the flood zone until authorities have declared the area safe. Don't return to a flood-damaged home until it has been inspected for structural safety and hazards.

