



**UPDATED: 08/2011**

## **TROPICAL STORM/HURRICANE INFORMATION SHEET**

### **SAFETY TIPS FOR HOME REPAIR IN HURRICANE-DAMAGED AREAS**

As Florida citizens affected by the recent hurricane return to their homes and begin repairs, the Department of Health suggests taking the following safety precautions to prevent personal injury:

- If possible, work in pairs or groups.
- Take short breaks and work during the cooler hours of the day.
- Wear goggles, heavy gloves and steel-toed boots.
- Immediately clean all open wounds and cuts with soap and clean water. Cuts beyond minor scratches may require medical attention.
- Never assume that water-damaged structures are safe; leave immediately if shifting or unusual noises occur.
- Avoid lifting more than 50 pounds of debris or building materials. Two or more people should move bulky objects.
- Avoid heat stroke and heat exhaustion by wearing light-colored, loose-fitting clothing and drinking a glass of fluid every 15 to 20 minutes.
- Only experienced individuals should use chain saws and specialized equipment. When using chain saws or other heavy equipment, wear earplugs.
- To prevent electrocution in wet areas, turn power off at the main breaker.
- Never handle a downed power line.
- Never bring gasoline- or diesel-powered pumps, generators or pressure washers indoors as they release carbon monoxide – a deadly, colorless, odorless gas.
- Set priorities for clean-up tasks and pace the work over several days or weeks.
- Avoid exhaustion by taking frequent rest breaks and resuming a normal sleep schedule as soon as possible.
- Take advantage of disaster relief programs and services in your community.

For further information, please contact your local county health department or visit [www.doh.state.fl.us](http://www.doh.state.fl.us) or [www.FloridaDisaster.org](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org).

The Florida Emergency Information Line: 1-800-342-3557