



Guidance and Checklist for Facility Repair and Re-Entry After Storms or Flooding

For administrators

Before returning to your clinic, ensure the appropriate authorities have said it is safe to return. If the building has been damaged by a storm or flooding, do not enter the building until a proper safety inspection has been completed to ensure structural integrity. If repairs are needed, consider how your clinic will communicate with staff, patients, and stakeholders to keep them informed about the status of the building and any changes to normal operations.

Considerations for high wind:

- Structural integrity and inspection should include:
 - Roof inspection
 - Load bearing beams and walls
 - Stucco, siding, and concrete
 - Structural metals
 - Windows
 - Interior walls and framing
 - Exterior equipment systems (HVAC, solar, etc.)
 - Cracks or gaps in the building envelope (windows, doors, and utility penetrations)

Considerations for facility flooding:

- Excess water removal and drying time.
- Mold remediation including minimizing spore dispersion during the cleaning process.
- Determining what medical and office equipment can be salvaged.
 - Has all furniture and equipment been inspected, repaired, and disinfected?
 - Has porous furniture that was wet been discarded?
 - Were mattresses discarded if they have been under water or wet?
 - Have all linens been laundered?
 - Have medications and supplies that were damaged or contaminated been discarded?
 - Are medical gas and suction systems including air lines operable and cleaned?
 - Have ice machines been flushed, cleaned, and disinfected?
 - Structural integrity (In addition to the considerations for high winds):
 - Cracks in the foundation (new or widening)
 - Structure dislodged from the foundation
 - Flooring (spongy or newly uneven / wavy materials)
 - Requirements prior to re-opening:

- Potable water
- Functional sewage system
- Adequate waste and medical waste disposal system
- Certification of occupancy

General safety considerations and assessment needs:

Trained professionals should do assessments of infrastructure and critical equipment. This includes assessment of the following systems:

- Structural integrity and missing structural items
 - Assessment of water damage, hidden moisture, and signs of mold growth
- Electrical system damage, including high voltage, insulation, and power integrity
- Water distribution system damage
- Sewer system damage
- Fire emergency systems damage
- HVAC system damage including all ductwork and filtration systems
- Medical waste and sharps disposal system
- Medical gas system damage
- Properly cleaned, disinfected, and calibrated medical equipment
- Hazardous chemical storage and/or disposal system

Facility repair and re-entry checklist



Done	Task	Assigned to
✓	Only return to the area when it is deemed safe by local emergency management or appropriate authorities.	
✓	When it is safe to return, inspect the clinic from the outside to look for tilting or displacement of the structure, cracks in the foundation, and any buckling or sagging of the roof or flooring (if visible from the outside).	
✓	Look for heavily damaged trees that could fall and harm people or structures. Contact a tree-removal company for management.	
✓	Look for downed or damaged power and communications lines. Contact utilities companies if observed.	
✓	Check for the presence of snakes, rodents, and other animals inside the facility.	
✓	Check for the smell of natural gas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Contact the gas company if observed. <input type="checkbox"/> Shut off the gas supply if it is outside the building. 	

Facility repair and re-entry checklist (continued)



Done	Task	Assigned to
✓	Once an expert has deemed the building safe to enter, take protective measures such as wearing thick soled shoes, heavy work gloves, long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt. If there is the possibility of mold, don a fit tested N-95 mask before entering the building. Staff with respiratory conditions (e.g., asthma) or immunosuppression should not enter buildings with water leaks or mold growth.	
✓	Check functionality of the clinic including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Exam rooms ☐ Office furniture ☐ Computer systems ☐ Refrigeration systems ☐ Pharmacy supply and equipment ☐ If the clinic uses paper documentation, check for damage to patient and pharmacy records. 	
✓	Ensure any private patient data and pharmaceuticals are well secured. They may need to be moved to a secondary site.	
✓	Call the clinic's pre-identified assessment team(s) to start inspection of the building. The results of this inspection will determine what steps to take for building restoration and should at minimum address all General Safety Considerations listed above.	
✓	Contact the clinic's pre-identified restoration team to prioritize and begin work.	
✓	Work with the assessment and restoration teams to identify if some sections of the clinic may be able to open before others. This will help with planning a staged re-opening.	
✓	Document all damage with photographs and written descriptions for insurance claims and repair references.	
✓	Keep detailed records of repair costs, contractor invoices, and any communications with insurance providers.	

Adapted from guidance from the [CDC](#), [FEMA](#), [AIHA](#), and [Rytech Restoration](#).

