

## Tornado Follow-Up

1. Use only approved or chlorinated supplies of drinking water. Consider water from all wells, cisterns and other water systems in the disaster area unsafe until they are tested and proven safe. Until professionals check and inform you that the water is not contaminated, boil or chlorinate drinking water before using it.
2. Get food, clothing, medical care or shelter at disaster recovery stations. Stay out of the disaster area unless you live there or are requested by someone who lives there or are an emergency worker. Extra people who are unprepared to render aid slow other's access and may endanger you or a victim that is being rescued.
3. Contact your insurance agent as soon as possible if you have property damage insurance. FEMA may have disaster stations and/or information for enrolling, if you qualify for emergency measures and federal disaster loans in declared disasters. The local emergency management services office can supply details.
4. Don't reenter your home or other damaged buildings until the electric and gas utilities approve reentry. A utility may be restoring electric service or others may be connecting portable generators to power lines. Downed lines may be energized. Allow qualified electricians to remove electrical hazards before attempting to reenter damaged property.
5. Be alert for gas line leaks. Don't bring lanterns, torches, lighted cigarettes or open flames into damaged buildings. If there is any odor, shut off the gas supply immediately and contact your gas supplier as soon as possible. Open all windows and doors. Leave the building immediately. Don't reenter the building until the risk of a gas explosion is eliminated.
6. Check food supplies. Food may contain slivers of glass or other debris. Discard food with broken wrap, seams or exposed contents. Move food that needs refrigeration within a few hours once the refrigerator is opened. Follow guidelines in *A Quick Consumer Guide to Safe Food Handling*, FSHED-82, for refrigerated or frozen foods.
7. Cooperate in the general clean-up of debris. Often, trees need to be cleared from access roads and experienced volunteers are needed to move limbs. Observe chain saw safety procedures and encourage other volunteers to proceed carefully. See *Chain Saw Safety*, FSA-1009. Downed wires should be avoided and treated as if they are energized. Electrical hazards, fallen trees, chain saws and extra adrenalin can be an extremely dangerous mixture.
8. Do not enter any building damaged by a tornado until it has been properly "shored" or deemed stable from further collapse. Plaster, ceilings and walls may not be secure and may collapse without much contact or force.
9. Be alert for exposed nails and other hazards that one might step on or bump into after tornado damage. Glass and projecting nails may gouge flesh from hands or feet. During clean-up and repairs wear shoes and gloves. Fiberglass insulation can irritate and cause reactions on unprotected legs and arms as well.
10. Use telephones only for essential communications in order to allow others to complete essential calls.