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Solutions (HSE) Inc.

Health, Safety & Environmental Services

A Practical Post-Flood Safety Checklist for Employers

Before cleanup begins, employers should consider the following:

- Has a post-flood hazard assessment been completed?**
- Has the building structure been assessed before entry?**
- Have electrical hazards been controlled?**
- Is flood water being treated as contaminated?**
- Are workers using appropriate PPE for the task?**
- Are hygiene and decontamination procedures available?**
- Has the potential for mould growth been assessed?**
- Could asbestos-containing materials be present?**
- Are fuel-powered tools being used safely with adequate ventilation?**
- Are confined or restricted spaces identified and controlled?**
- Are fatigue, heat, cold, and mental health risks being managed?**
- Do workers know how to report unsafe conditions?**

A structured hazard assessment, appropriate controls, and clear communication help employers make safer decisions during flood recovery. For safety professionals and business leaders, this is also an opportunity to review emergency response planning, contractor coordination, PPE availability, and worker training before the next event occurs.

If your workplace is planning flood recovery, renovation, or cleanup activities, consider involving qualified OHS and industrial hygiene professionals early in the process. A careful assessment can help identify hidden hazards and support a safer return to work.