

► **BE ALERT FOR POST-DISASTER SCAMS**

- Although anxious to get things back to normal, avoid acting in haste. Don't be pressured into signing long-term or expensive contracts. Make temporary repairs if necessary.
- Be wary of door-to-door sales calls. Check with the Smithfield Police Dept. to find out if door-to-door solicitors are registered with the town.
- For major repairs, shop around for contractors, get competitive bids and check references.
- If possible, get more than one bid. Bids should be in writing and should detail the work to be done, the materials to be used, and the price breakdown for labor and materials.
- Review any written agreement carefully before signing.
- Never pay in cash and never pay a substantial amount for services up-front.
- Always request to see the building permit from the Smithfield Building and Zoning Office from a contractor before work begins.

► **LONG-TERM FLOOD REPAIRS**

When recovering from a flood, be ready for the next time by floodproofing your home or building. Consider the benefits to floodproofing. By protecting your home or building from damage, floodproofing will save you money and aggravation during the next flood.

Many flood-proofing measures are inexpensive. Protecting your house or building from future flood damage will increase your property's resale value. Many floodproofing measures can be easily worked in during repair and rebuilding, reducing your costs. By preparing for the next flood, you regain control over your future—a guaranteed way to reduce anxiety and stress.

► **IMPORTANT POST-FLOOD PHONE NUMBERS**

- Smithfield Building & Zoning Official 401-233-1039
- Better Business Bureau (Southeast office) 508-652-4800
- Rhode Island Energy (Electric and Gas) 800-714-2682



Town of Smithfield
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

215 Pleasant View Avenue
Smithfield, Rhode Island 02917
401-233-1033 • www.smithfieldema.org

This brochure has been prepared by the Town of Smithfield Emergency Management Agency with information from FEMA, the US Corps of Army Engineers and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

Returning to normal after a flood



Waterman Avenue
March 2010

An information guide for Smithfield residents and business owners

Version 5 – December 2023

Smithfield Emergency Management Agency

Dear Smithfield Neighbor,

Today, we were called to your home or business due to a flood related emergency. As part of that response, this brochure contains important information regarding the hazards related to a flooding emergency and is a starting point so you may begin the process of cleaning-up and returning your home, business and life back to normal.

Experiencing an emergency can be overwhelming and disorienting. Your town's public safety system is ready to be a resource as you recover from this emergency. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 401-233-1033.

Sincerely,
Todd S. Manni
Director of Emergency Management



**TO PREVENT ACCIDENTAL ELECTROCUTION,
NEVER ENTER A FLOODED BASEMENT UNTIL
THE POWER HAS BEEN TURNED OFF.**

**IF YOU SMELL NATURAL GAS, EVACUATE YOUR
HOME IMMEDIATELY AND DIAL 9-1-1.**

**NEVER LET CHILDREN OR PETS PLAY IN OR
AROUND FLOODED AREAS.**

► **IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN**

- Once the water has receded and you can do so safely, visually inspect your home, especially the basement and levels that were affected by the flood. Look carefully at the foundation; water and sewer lines; and electrical systems in your home for signs of damage. Contact a **licensed** contractor regarding repairs.
- Water from the flood may have caused damage to gas fired appliances and extinguished pilot lights. Even if you do not smell gas, turn valves to the **off** position. Pilot lights should only be relit by a technician from your gas provider.
- Throw away food that has come in contact with flood water, mud or debris. Even canned goods and other sealed containers should be suspect for contamination and carefully inspected before being consumed.
- Call your insurance company and report the flood and the damage to your home. At a minimum, you will need (1) the name of your insurance company; (2) your policy number; and (3) a telephone number/email address where you can be reached.
- Photographs of damage will help when you file your insurance claim. Photograph the water in your home, items damaged and make a list of property destroyed, including the value when possible. Speak to an insurance adjuster before final disposal of damaged items.

► **ABOUT PUMPS AND SANDBAGS**

- Due to call volume, a pump and/or other equipment may have been left at your home by either the Fire Department or the Emergency Management Agency. Please keep children away from this equipment while it is running and please follow any special instructions if provided.
- The town has a limited number of pumps. Often times, many residents are in need and are waiting to use a pump. Once storm water has been drained from your home or building, please promptly contact the Fire Dept. at 401-949-1330 to arrange the return of a pump and other equipment.

▪ Sandbags may have been delivered to divert water away from your home or building. If bags are not tied, fold the top of sandbag down and rest bag on its folded top. It is important to place bags with the folded top toward the upstream or uphill direction to prevent bags from opening when water runs by them. Care should be taken to stack sandbags in accordance with the illustration shown.

▪ Sandbags cannot be returned nor will they be picked up. Sand within the sandbags may contain road salt and is **not** suitable for children's sandboxes.



► **STARTING THE CLEAN-UP**

- Do not attempt any task that is beyond your physical capability or personal skillset.
- Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment to include eye protection, gloves, coveralls and sturdy shoes or boots.
- Remove saturated items from your home or building. Wet carpeting, furniture, bedding, etc. retain moisture and quickly begin to grow mold. Items not able to be removed such as doors, shelving, etc. should be carefully washed down and allowed to dry.
- Dry out the interior of a building with portable dehumidifiers. Circulate air in wet rooms with portable fans and blowers. Save receipts from rentals since these expenses might be reimbursable through your insurance.
- If sheetrock or wood paneling was damaged by water, contact a contractor to remove damaged sections. Always photograph damage prior to removal.
- It is possible to save items such as water damaged books, photographs and other paper items. To learn more about salvaging these types of materials, visit the Northeast Document Conservation Center at: <https://www.nedcc.org/>