



GENERAL POST-STORM SAFETY

Recovery from a major event may take a long time. Re-entry into severely impacted locations may be delayed for an extended period. Loss of lives and serious injuries may result from electrocution by downed power lines and standing water. Use of chain saws in unsafe conditions or by inexperienced operators may also result in serious injury or loss of life.

- Keep listening to local radio and TV stations for instructions.
- If you evacuate, return home only after local officials tell you it is safe to do so.
- Stay away from loose or dangling power lines. Assume all downed wires are energized. Report them to LIPA or to the police department.
- Standing water may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines. Use caution near standing water.
- Enter your home or any building with caution. Recognize that there may be damage to the structural integrity of the building.
- Wear sturdy shoes and do not enter if there is water around the building.
- Look for fire hazards such as flooded electrical circuits or submerged furnaces and appliances.
- Look for electrical system damage. If you see sparks or frayed wires and can safely reach the circuit breaker or main fuse box, turn off the electricity. Never step in water to get to the fuse box or circuit breaker. Call a licensed electrician to evaluate.
- Before turning electric power back on make sure that there is no water intrusion in the system.
- Check for gas leaks. If you smell gas or hear a hissing noise, leave immediately and call the fire department from a neighbor's home. When possible turn off the gas outside, at the main valve.
- Check for sewage line and water line damage. If you think sewage lines are damaged, don't use toilets. If water pipes are damaged, don't use tap water. Call a licensed plumber to evaluate.
- Watch out for animals such as raccoons, squirrels or birds, which may have entered the building with flood waters.
- Use flashlights to examine walls, floors, doors, staircases and windows for damage. Inspect foundations for cracks and make sure the building is not in danger of collapsing.
- Use only flashlights or other battery powered lights in the dark. If you choose to use candles, follow established safety procedures (nfpa.org) and never leave candles unattended.
- Do not drink or prepare food with tap water until Town Officials advise that it is not contaminated.
- Use the telephone to report life-threatening emergencies only.
- Be especially cautious and follow American Red Cross guidelines if using a chainsaw to cut fallen trees.
- Verify proper contractor licensing and insurance with the Town of Southampton for all post-storm contractors. Please verify contractor licensing on the Town website at www.southamptontownny.gov, Emergency Preparedness, whenever possible. Remember that Town employees may be redeployed to assist you in the recovery stages and may not be immediately available by telephone.
- Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home.
- Mold can cause serious health problems. If you suspect mold contact a reputable service or contractor to remove.