



U.S. EPA HURRICANE 2017

Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

www.epa.gov/hurricane-response

Office of Pesticide Programs and Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics Actions

- EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) and Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT) coordinate with EPA's Emergency Operations Center in Washington, D.C. on response activities.
- The office provides technical assistance to federal and state response efforts, which includes providing information related to pesticide clean-up from damaged production facilities, run-off, or lead in paint or renovations.

Pest and Pesticide Concerns During and After Flooding

- Concerns about pests and pesticides typically increase as the response enters the clean-up phase.
- To avoid excessive risks to people or the environment, pesticide users should always follow directions on the label.

Mold

EPA provides [tips on getting rid of mold](#) on surfaces in and around homes. EPA-registered antimicrobial products can be used to treat mold infestations.

Bed Bugs

- Large movements of people and bedding in crowded conditions enables bed bug infestations.
- While bed bugs are not known to transmit disease, they may cause [other public health issues](#).
- [Read more about bed bug controls](#).

Emergency Water Disinfection

People whose water supply is known or suspected of being contaminated should consider using EPA-registered antimicrobial products to disinfect drinking water. Consult your local health authorities for instructions. Search for registered products by use at <http://npic.orst.edu/NPRO/>.

Mosquitoes

- After flood waters from a hurricane recede, standing water can provide an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes.
- Mosquitoes can transmit serious diseases (Zika, West Nile, etc.). [More about diseases carried by mosquitoes](#).
- EPA registers effective mosquito control pesticides used by state and local mosquito control departments, as well as mosquitocide and repellent products that can be used by consumers. [More about Mosquito Control](#).

Fire Ants and Rodents

- Floating fire ant colonies, which have been reported in Texas floods, pose significant risk to people in water or boats.
- Hundreds of rodenticide and fire ant products are registered by EPA. Search for registered products by pest type at <http://npic.orst.edu/NPRO/>.

Unexpected Needs for Pesticides

During emergencies, [Section 18 of FIFRA](#) authorizes EPA to approve limited use of an unregistered pesticide.

Lead in Paint: Concerns with Post-Disaster Renovations

Natural disasters often result in need for renovations to damaged homes and other structures. For more on how to perform renovation work safely, contact the **National Lead Information Center, 1-800-424-LEAD (5323)**.