

PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET

No. 101.10

HOUSEHOLD SAFETY AFTER FLOODS

- Use a torch to carry out inspections inside buildings. Never use matches, candles or lighters.
- If power points, electrical equipment or electrical hot water systems have been exposed to floodwater or are water damaged in any way, they must be inspected by a qualified electrician before use.
- Gas appliances and gas bottles that have been exposed to floodwater should be inspected for safety before use.
- If you have any lost household power and are using candles or portable light or heating sources, never leave them unattended and ensure they are kept well away from all flammable material. Always extinguish candles or any other open flame before going to bed.
- If you have lost household power, turn off all appliances at the power point as they may be affected by a power surge when power resumes.
- If drying clothing, keep wet clothing at least 1 metre from heaters or fireplaces and never leave them unattended. If you use a clothes dryer make sure you clean the lint filter each and every time you use it.
- If you have a garage or shed take extra care with any stored chemicals and fuels. Handle with extreme caution and use the recommended protective equipment such as gloves and safety goggles. If you are concerned about contact with chemicals, contact your local fire safety station for advice.
- In the event of fire, leave the house and call 000 for the Fire Brigade.