

General Considerations for Sanitarians and Local Environmental Health Department Officials: NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Counties are required to have emergency plans. Some counties have sanitation considerations written into the plan, since things like locating wells and septic systems, reporting and abandoning found wells, etc. could be assisted by county sanitarians. Contact your county emergency manager for more information on your local plan.

In order to be called by incident command to respond to a disaster, credentials and a badge are highly encouraged, if not required. For more information, or to get involved, contact your county emergency manager.

Some examples of how sanitarians have been involved in local disaster response:

- In some locations throughout the state, sanitarians have been called upon by the locale to inspect homes for habitability.
- **Mass sheltering** locations and/or remaining inhabitable houses may not have the wastewater load capacity for the number of people temporarily sheltering there.
- **Abandoned properties, wells and systems:** After a disaster such as flood or tornado, properties may be abandoned. When the debris is eventually cleaned up, abandoned/damaged septic tanks and wells are frequently discovered.
- During cleanup, trucks can compact the drain field soil and/or crush a septic tank. Locations of tanks and wells need to be marked.

Other Considerations:

- Homeowners in floodplains should have their wellheads taller than flood level and capped with sanitary seals, with protective features to guard against floodwater debris.
- In the case of house fires or wildfires, well casings can melt, releasing chemicals and may require the well to be plugged and a new one dug.

There are additional issues with mass animal mortality in the case of fires, floods, or blizzards. Carcasses must be disposed of properly in a landfill or other preapproved burial site. Contact your local KDHE office for more information and guidance.

KDHE Offices Contacts:

Northwest District

2301 E. 13th Street
Hays, KS 67601-2651
Phone: (785) 261-6100
KDHE.NWDOAdmin@ks.gov

North Central District

2501 Market Place, Suite D
Salina, KS 67401-7699
Phone (785) 827-9639
KDHE.NCDOAdmin@ks.gov

Northeast District

800 West 24th Street
Lawrence, KS 66046-4417
Phone: (785) 842-4600
KDHE.NEDOAdmin@ks.gov

Southwest District

302 West McArtor Road
Dodge City, KS 67801-6014
Phone: (620) 682-7940
KDHE.SWDOAdmin@ks.gov

South Central District

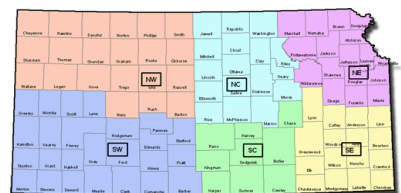
300 West Douglas, Suite 700
Wichita, KS 67202-2921
Phone: (316) 337-6041
KDHE.SCDOAdmin@ks.gov

Southeast District

308 W 14th Street
Chanute, KS 66720
Phone: (620) 431-2390
KDHE.SEDOAdmin@ks.gov

LEPP

1000 SW Jackson St.
Topeka, KS 66612-1367
Phone: (785) 296-4195
nps@ks.gov



Resources for Counties & Homeowners: Onsite Systems and Flooding

General

[Returning Home after a Hurricane or Flood](#)—American Red Cross (1 page)

[Repairing your Flooded Home](#)—American Red Cross (56 pages)

[Flood Safety](#)—KDHE (7 pages)

[Basement Flooding](#)—KDHE Brochure (2 pages)

[Guidance on Contamination of Flooded Areas](#)—CDC document (7 pages)

Septic Systems and Solid Waste

What to do after the Flood? EPA—Septic Systems

[MF2246](#)—Plugging Cisterns, Cesspools, Septic Tanks, and other Holes (4 pages)

[KDHE Disaster Recovery Website](#)

[KDHE Disaster Response/Solid Waste Website](#)

Note: The [Dane Hansen Foundation](#) gives funds for cleanup, for example to pay for dumpsters and subsequent transport of debris to the landfill. You can check if your county is in their territory.

Private Wells

[KGS Water Well Database](#)

[KDHE Water Wells Unit website](#) (additional guidance and resources)

[What to do after the Flood?](#)—Wells—EPA

MF2733—Restoring a Flooded Well to Service

[MF970](#)—Private Wells—Safe Location and Construction

Testing and Chlorinating

[MF951](#)—Testing to Help Ensure Safe Drinking Water

[MF871](#)—Recommended Water Tests for Private Wells

[MF963](#)—Taking a Water Sample

[MF912](#)—Understanding your Water Test Report

KDHE Certified Private Water Well Testing Labs

[MF911](#)—Shock Chlorination for Private Well

Plugging and Reporting

[Plugging Hand-dug Wells Fact Sheet](#)

[Water Well Plugging Report Form_WWC-5P Water Well Plugging Report Form Instructions](#)

A c X

[9D5 A c X; i JXY](#)—5 Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture, and Your Home

[Getting Rid of Mold](#)—CDC Flyer (1 page)

[When to Use Bleach](#)—CDC Flyer (2 pages)

[Clean with Bleach](#)—CDC Flyer (1 page) English

[Clean with Bleach](#)—CDC Flyer (1 page) Spanish

[MF2141](#)—Mold in Your Home

[Mold Cleanup](#)—CDC Flyer (1 page) English

[Mold Cleanup](#)—CDC Flyer (1 page) Spanish

[Homeowner's and Renter's Guide to Mold Cleanup After Disasters](#)