

## **WI DHFS Statement on Volunteer Administration and Safety for Flood Recovery**

To assure the efficient and safe use of volunteer resources, it is essential that personnel be administered locally in a centralized manner. Volunteers should be asked to report to a reception center where their assets can be evaluated and deployed as needed.

Prior to deployment, the following should occur.

- Local emergency management officials must approve access to flood affected areas by property owners or volunteers. Building officials will need to inspect severely damaged buildings for structural integrity and utility concerns. Volunteer access waivers (attached) should be granted by the property owner prior to volunteer work beginning.
- Volunteer teams should work in teams of a minimum of two or three and must have a means of communicating for assistance.
- Those engaged in flood recovery activities should anticipate hazards such as contaminated water, sharp objects, dust, bacteria and mold, slippery surfaces, uncontrolled animals or other hazards.
- Volunteers should be given health and safety information from CDC and WI DHFS that address respirator use, mold cleanup recommendations and general health and safety concerns.
- The local volunteer administrator should assure that volunteers are assigned tasks they are capable of and equipped to handle.
- If volunteers do not meet needs for required equipment, capability or training, they should be politely redirected.

Information about flood recovery health and safety can be found at:

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/recovery.asp>

If you have any questions about health and safety during flood recovery, please contact WI DPH at 608-266-1120.