

# SAFETY FIRST

## FLOODS

September is [National Preparedness Month](#), a time to make sure solid waste workers are ready for emergencies that can happen at any time. Many hurricanes and other natural disasters involve flooding. These tips can help you stay safe both during and after a flood.



- Almost half of flood fatalities are vehicle-related. Never try to cross flooded roadways if you don't know the water depth.
- Stay away from downed or damaged power lines and report them immediately.
- Make sure tree limbs and debris aren't in contact with power lines before moving them.
- Gas and diesel generators release deadly, colorless, and odorless carbon monoxide. Only operate them outdoors and never inside confined spaces.
- Lifting heavy, wet debris can cause back, knee, and shoulder injuries. Use proper lifting techniques and teams to move bulky or heavy items.
- Floodwater can be contaminated. Avoid contact and clean yourself thoroughly if you do touch it.

**Thank You to Our Sponsor!**



**FireRover**  
DETECT | EXTINGUISH | PROTECT

For more #SWANAsafety info and resources visit [SWANA.org/safety](https://www.swana.org/safety)