

PREPARING FOR WATER SAFETY DISASTERS

When an emergency or disaster strikes, water safety is often a concern for child nutrition staff. Every foodservice operation relies on potable water.

Potable water is clean and safe to use for drinking, cooking, washing hands and equipment, and other everyday needs.

How Water Becomes Unsafe During a Disaster

Natural Disasters: Floods or windstorms may create unsafe water conditions from sewage, chemicals, or other contaminants getting into potable water sources.

Emergency Impacts: Fire or wind damage could close a building for months. Stagnant water in pipes may become unsafe. Mold and bacteria could grow, or pipes could leach minerals.



Water Safety Actions



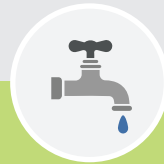
Create a plan for safe water supplies before disaster strikes, including a potable water source.



Make a temporary handwashing station with a copy of the handwashing procedure for staff.



Partner with others, such as the maintenance department or local water utility, for resources and guidance.



Flush the system when appropriate. Replace the water in both the hot and cold water pipes to remove the risk of microorganisms and minerals. Work with partners to flush the system properly.



Contact the local water utility or health authority staff to test the water supply.



Document the actions taken and the results of your water safety plan.



Train staff on emergency procedures before a disaster.

This project was funded using U.S. Department of Agriculture grant funds. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. The University of Mississippi is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA employer.

For more information and the nondiscrimination statement in other languages:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/usda-nondiscrimination-statement>

Except as provided below, you may freely use the text and information contained in this document for non-profit or educational use with no cost to the participant for the training providing the following credit is included. These materials may not be incorporated into other websites or textbooks and may not be sold.

Suggested Reference Citation:

Institute of Child Nutrition. (2023). *STAR webinar series – When disaster strikes twice: Water safety concerns*. University, MS: Author.

The photographs and images in this document may be owned by third parties and used by the University of Mississippi under a licensing agreement. The university cannot, therefore, grant permission to use these images. Please contact helpdesk@theicn.org for more information.

© 2023, Institute of Child Nutrition, The University of Mississippi, School of Applied Sciences