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MEDIA RELEASE

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Safely cleaning up after a flood

MSD advises residents whose homes or businesses were recently flooded to follow these guidelines. Take photographs of the damage before cleanup. Residents are encouraged to begin cleanup as soon as safely possible; floodplain permits are not required before cleanup begins.

Flood cleanup safety tips:

- ☐ Before entering your home, check for damaged power lines, gas lines, foundation cracks and other exterior damage. It may be too dangerous to enter the home.
- ☐ If you smell natural gas or propane, or hear a hissing noise, leave immediately and contact the fire department
- ☐ Do not walk into a flooded basement because of the risk of electrocution. Turn off gas, water and electricity — if you can without wading into water.
- ☐ Check news outlets for safety of the local water supply.
(Recent flooding has not impacted drinking water from Louisville Water.)
- ☐ Discard any food, medicine or cosmetics that may have come into contact with floodwaters.
- ☐ Floodwaters can carry chemicals and germs that could be harmful to your health. Protect yourself during cleanup by wearing boots, gloves and masks. Clean and disinfect everything that may have come in contact with floodwater.
- ☐ Open all doors and windows to circulate air and dry out your home. Dehumidify as soon as possible.

Get a permit before you repair or rebuild in a floodplain

MSD is responsible for permitting and inspecting all new construction—including repairs and improvements to existing structures in the floodplain, according to the Louisville Metro Floodplain Ordinance.

To apply for a floodplain permit:

Apply online

- ☐ Download the Application for a Permit to Develop/Repair in a Floodplain, visit <https://louisvillemsd.org/programs/floodplain-management/flood-permitting>

- ☐ For repairs or improvements to an existing structure, provide an itemized estimate of material and labor costs of the repairs or improvements to be made, including demolition costs—even if this work is to be done by the homeowner or a volunteer. It is not required to include cleanup costs in the estimate.
- ☐ Provide building value—PVA data or owner-provided appraisal.
- ☐ Submit the application and all documents listed above.

Apply in person:

MSD, 700 W Liberty Street, Louisville, KY 40203
Monday through Friday, 9 am to 4 pm

Apply by email:

FloodPermits@louisvillemsd.org

For questions concerning floodplain permitting, call:

MSD Customer Relations

502.540.6000

CustomerRelations@LouisvilleMSD.org.

Background

MSD maintains Louisville Metro's Ohio River Flood Protection System—keeping the river at bay and out of the city.

The system protects more than 200,000 people, 87,000 homes and \$24 billion in property throughout 110 square miles of Louisville Metro. It includes 29 miles of floodwall and earthen levee, 16 flood pumping stations, nearly 150 floodgates and 80 floodwall closures.

Where creeks and storm drains pass through the floodwall, gates can be closed to keep the river from flowing up the streams, and large pumps at the flood pumping stations are used to lift the water from the creeks into the river. Additional gates and pumping stations keep the river from backing up through storm drains, and pump the stormwater into the river.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built the system after the city's two highest floods of record in 1937 and 1945. MSD has been responsible for the Flood Protection System since 1987.

About MSD

The Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) works to achieve and maintain clean, environmentally safe waterways for a healthy and vibrant community. The organization's nearly 740 employees provide wastewater management, drainage and flood protection services across the 376 square miles of Louisville Metro, and wastewater service in portions of Bullitt and Oldham counties. In addition to operating and maintaining Louisville Metro's sewer system, floodwall system, water quality treatment centers and flood pumping stations, MSD invests in hundreds of infrastructure improvement projects each year, plants more than 1,000 trees and other vegetation annually to enhance water filtration and reduce runoff, and provides numerous outreach programs to inform and educate the community about protecting our waterways.