

Protect Yourself From Animal And Insect Related Hazards After A Natural Disaster

General:

- Avoid wild or stray animals.
- Call local authorities to handle animals.
- Secure all food sources to avoid attracting animals.
- Get rid of dead animals, according to guidelines from your local animal control authority, as soon as you can. See “Animal Disposal” (<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/animaldisposal.html>) for answers to frequently asked questions.
- For guidance on caring for animals entering shelters and for people working with or handling animals following an emergency, see “Interim Guidelines for Animal Health and Control of Disease Transmission in Pet Shelters” (<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/animalhealthguidelines.html>).
- For more information, contact your local animal shelter or services, a veterinarian, or the Humane Society for advice on dealing with pets or stray or wild animals after an emergency. Also see “Resources for Planning How to Protect Your Pets in an Emergency” (<https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/emergencies/>).

Avoid Mosquitos:

- Rain and flooding from severe weather events may lead to an increase in mosquito numbers. In most cases, mosquitoes that emerge post-flooding will be a nuisance but will not transmit disease. However, as flood waters persist it is possible that disease transmitting mosquitoes (such as those that transmit West Nile virus) can emerge. Local, state, and federal public health authorities will actively work to control the spread of any mosquito-borne diseases. For more information on West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne diseases, visit our website at <https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/diseases-from-animals-insects>.
- To protect yourself from mosquitoes, ensure that screens on windows and doors are not damaged; wear protective clothing such as long pants, socks, long-sleeved shirts, and closed-toe shoes; and use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved insect repellents such as products that contain DEET or Picaridin. Always follow product label directions, with special attention to age restrictions. You can use the EPA’s repellent search tool to identify products that meet you and your family’s needs (<https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-repellent-right-you>). More information on preventing mosquito bites can be found at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention webpage <https://www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention/prevent-mosquito-bites.html>.
- To help control mosquito populations around your home, remove standing water that mosquitoes can use as a development site. Anything that can hold water can potentially be a development source for mosquitoes. Common sources include flower pots, tires, pet dishes, bird baths, fountains, plant saucers, toys, trash, etc. Water sources that are too large to easily remove or drain can either be covered or treated with some over-the-counter larvicides. These products commonly use *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* or BTI, which is specific to mosquito larvae and should not harm other animals or humans. Remember to always follow product label

Prevent Contact with Rodents:

- Remove food sources, water, and items that can provide shelter for rodents.
- Wash dishes, pans, and cooking utensils immediately after use.
- Dispose of garbage and debris as soon as possible.
- For more information, see “Rodent Control After Hurricanes and Floods” (<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/flyer-keep-pests-out.html>).

Prevent or Respond to a Snake Bite:

- Be aware of snakes that may be swimming in the water to get to higher ground and those that may be hiding under debris or other objects.
- If you see a snake, back away from it slowly and do not touch it.
- If you or someone you know are bitten, try to see and remember the color and shape of the snake, which can help with treatment of the snake bite.
- Keep the bitten person still and calm. This can slow down the spread of venom if the snake is poisonous. Seek medical attention as soon as possible. Dial 911 or call local Emergency Medical Services. Apply first aid if you cannot get the person to the hospital right away.
 - Lay or sit the person down with the bite below the level of the heart.
 - Tell him/her to stay calm and still.
 - Cover the bite with a clean, dry dressing.

For more information, see “How to Prevent or Respond to a Snake Bite” (www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/snakebite.asp).

For More Information, See the Following:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - Avoid Contact with Wild Animals (www.cdc.gov/ncidod/op/animals.htm)
 - Dog Bite Prevention (www.cdc.gov/ncipc/duip/biteprevention.htm)
 - Healthy Pets, Healthy People (www.cdc.gov/healthypets)
 - Rabies Website (www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rabies)
 - Rat-Bite Fever: Frequently Asked Questions (www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/ratbitefever_g.htm)
- American Veterinary Association
 - Dog Bite Prevention (www.avma.org/press/publichealth/dogbite/messpoints.asp)
 - Education Resources for Dog Bite Prevention (www.cdc.gov/ncipc/duip/biteprevention.htm)
- Texas A&M University
 - Medical Problems and Treatment Considerations for the Red Imported Fire Ant (<http://fireant.tamu.edu/materials/factsheets/FAPFS023.2002rev.Medical.pdf>)

For additional information on disaster planning and recovery, go to the Arkansas Department of Health website at www.healthy.arkansas.gov or call toll-free at 1-800-462-0599 or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/workers.aspdc.gov/disasters>.