# GUIDANCE FOR SEPTIC SYSTEMS BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER A FLOOD



#### **Background**

This resource provides guidance for septic system users before, during, and after a food. Understanding your septic system type, location, and components before a food occurs will make this guide more useful. Please visit neha.org to access educational resources for septic system users.

#### Safety Reminders

Get help from a septic system service professional for steps with this gna Vc'.'''''Nt'i 'Wb' bX'gYdhJWgnghYa service professionals through local \YU'h\'XYdUfha YbhgZXYdUfha Ybhg'CZ'Ybj ]fcba YbhU''ei U']hnZXYdUfha Ybhg'cZ'bUhi fU''fYgci fWgZcf'i b]j Yfg]hmi extension services.

Make sure you turn off power to h\Y'gYdh]WgnghYa 'UbX'U``'WtfXg'UfY' i bd`i [[YX'VYZcfY']bgdYVM]b['h\Y'UfYU" H\YfY']g'XUb[Yf'cZY`YVMf]WU'g\cW\_'UbXXUa U[Y'hc'noi f'gYdh]WgnghYa "

K YUffi VVYfi `cj Yg'UbX'YmY'
protection when inspecting septic
system components. Wash your
\UbXg'h\cfci [\`nžh\fck 'Uk Um[`cj Ygz
UbX'k Ug\ 'Ubm\VbhUa ]bUhYX'\Vch\Yg'
k \Yb'Z]b]g\YX'''

Get help from a septic system service professional if any of the steps feel unsafe in your situation or if your system loses power.

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### **Before the Flood**

5`k Ungi\_YYd 'mci f'gYdh]WgnghYa 'k Y``'a U]bHJ]bYX/U'k Y``!a U]bHJ]bYX'gYdh]WgnghYa ']g' VYHYf'UV`Y'hc'k ]h\ghUbX'h\Y'ghfYggYg'cZ'U' ccX''' Z'nci ``]j Y']b'U' ccX'dfcbY'UfYUž'HJ\_Y' these steps to protect your septic system.

- now and document all components of your septic system. Take photos of the WtbbYWJcbg'UbX'gmghYa 'Wta dcbYbhg'' H\YgY'd\chcg'k ]``'VY'\Y`dZi ``]ZWta dcbYbhg' UfY'XYghfcmYX'UbX'nci 'bYYX'hc'fYd`UW'h\Ya 'cf' `Y']bgi fUbW'' WU]a g'''A U\_Y'gi fY'nci f' d\chcg'UbX#cf'XcW'a Ybhg']bWi XY.

Septic tank location GYdh]WgnghYa 'fYVt/fXg'cf'XfUk ]b[g Electrical components

- Make sure the land around the manhole covers is sloped downwards so that

## **During the Flood**

- Follow emergency and evacuation advice for your area.
- Eliminate all non-essential water use UbX' i g\'hc]'Yhg'Ug``]hh`Y'Ug'dcgg]V`Y']Z' Yj UW\Uh]cb']g'bchbYYXYX'''
- If the drain f eld becomes covered with water, do not use the system  $UbX^*Uj c]X^*WbhJWk ]h `UbmghJbX]b[ `k UhYf 'h Uh'a UmWbhJ]b 'gYk U[ Y'' `$
- Try to f nd other toilets if your septic system is damaged. Zh\YfY'UfY'bc' Z bWhcb]b['hc]'Yhg'Uj U]'UV'Y'gYY'h\Y'[i]XUbW'cb'hYa dcfUfmhc]'Yhg'VY'ck "

- Reduce water use i bh]`h\Y`gmghYa ']g']bgdYVMYX`UbX`fYdU]fYX"

Avoid sending basement sump pump water into the septic system.

Re-route water from roof gutters Uk UmZfca h\YXfU]b ZJYX"

Take short showers

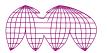
Limit laundry and dishwashing

Turn off the water k \]`Y`Vfi g\]b[ 'h\Yh\z\z\Uj ]b[\z\cf'f]bg]b[ 'X]g\Yg

#### **OTHER SYSTEMS**

#### **SOURCES**

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