Toolbox Talks are intended to facilitate health and safety discussions on the job site. For additional Toolbox Talks, please visit SAFETY.CAT.COM™.

**TOPIC: General Decontamination**

When floodwaters or other sources cause contamination on a site, take the following steps to prevent the spread of disease.

**Hand Decontamination**
- Wash hands completely with soap and water.
- Rinse completely, and dry with a clean towel or air-dry.

**Clothing, Tool, and Equipment Decontamination**
- Use soap and clean water whenever possible.
- When water is contaminated, add ¼ cup of bleach per gallon.
- Immerse each object in solution for 10 minutes. When washing clothing, agitate periodically.
- Do not immerse electrical or battery operated tools or equipment in solutions. Clean the exterior with a rag soaked with soap and water or disinfectant solution.
- Transfer objects to hand wash solution for 10 minutes. Agitate clothing periodically.
- Air-dry clothes, tools, and equipment thoroughly before re-use.

**Severe Surface Decontamination**
- Mix 1 ½ cups bleach per gallon of water.
- Soak heavily contaminated surfaces for three minutes.
- Wipe contamination from the surface with paper towel, and douse the surface again with hand wash solution.
- Wipe off residual contamination with a paper towel.

**Important Precautions**
- Use gloves and eye protection.
- Prepare bleach solutions daily and allow them to stand for at least 30 minutes before use.
- Label all containers: “Bleach-disinfected water, DO NOT DRINK.”

**CAUTION: Do not mix bleach with products containing ammonia.**

Discussion Date: __________________________

Employee Participants:

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