

# TOOLBOX TALKS

## General Decontamination

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Discussion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Employee Participants:

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### 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.**

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