



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Public reminded to use caution in flood waters

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Flooding from Hurricane Gustav may result in contaminants from various sources being washed into streams, creeks, rivers and coastal waters. If flooding occurs, these waters may contain fecal material from overflowing sewage systems as well as other contaminants from a variety of sources.

“The Alabama Department of Public Health urges persons to use caution when coming into contact with these waters,” said Dr. Donald Williamson, state health officer.

Although skin contact with flood waters does not by itself pose a serious health risk, there is a risk of disease from eating or drinking anything contaminated by flood water. If one has open cuts or sores that will be exposed to flood water, keep them as clean as possible by washing well with soap to control infection. If a wound develops redness, swelling or drainage, promptly seek medical attention.

Also, any fish or seafood caught from these waters should be thoroughly cooked prior to consumption. After handling fish and seafood, persons are reminded to thoroughly wash their hands with soap and clean water.