



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Use caution in flood waters

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 6, 4 p.m.

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Recent flooding in Alabama may result in contaminants from various sources being washed into streams, creeks and rivers. 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 Pres Allinder, director of the Bureau of Environmental Services, Alabama Department of Public Health.

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

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