

Clark County Health District  
625 Shadow Lane  
Las Vegas, NV 89106  
(702) 385-1291

# Media Advisory

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Contact: Jennifer Sizemore  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 9, 1999

## Clark County Health District Issues Warnings Regarding Flood Waters

Walking or playing in floodwater should be avoided as this water is carrying runoff from various areas of the valley. Floodwater may contain chemicals such as pesticides and herbicides, oil or other petroleum products and bacteria from fecal matter. People who have been in contact with floodwater should bathe using soap and warm water as soon as possible. If a rash or infections develop a physician should be contacted.

Residents who use private wells for their drinking water should be safe unless a large amount of erosion at the well head occurred, or the well head was under water for any period of time. If a change in the color or taste of the water is noted, or if the well head was covered by water, it should be boiled vigorously for 2-5 minutes to use for drinking and cooking. Additionally, the well should be sanitized.

Most wells in the valley are approximately 400 feet deep and are 8-5/8 inches diameter. Wells may be sanitized by contacting a water well professional or by pouring one gallon of household bleach into the well and turning the pump on and off two or three times to mix the bleach and water. Then faucets in the house should then be turned on until a bleach odor is detected. This should be done for each faucet in the house. Once this step is

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completed water must be left off for at least five hours. At the end of this time period the system should be flushed.

The system can be flushed by turning on the lawn irrigation system until no chlorine odor is detected. After this time faucets in the house can be flushed. Flushing in this manner will not damage a septic system.

To test for bacteria in the water contact:

Associated Pathologist Laboratories

4230 South Burnham Avenue, Suite 144

Las Vegas, NV 89119

Phone: 733-7866

A bottle for sampling will be sent and instructions for collecting the sample. The cost of the test is \$17.00.

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## Information Sheet

### Septic System Repairs

#### Soil Erosion Near the Solid Pipe

If soil erosion has exposed the solid pipe from the house to the septic tank or the septic tank to the disposal field, the pipe can be repaired and/or back filled without a construction permit or inspection from the Environmental Health staff of the Clark County Health District (CCHD).

#### Soil Erosion Near the Disposal Field

If soil erosion has exposed the perforated pipe in the disposal field, a septic system construction/repair permit and inspection is required from CCHD prior to making any repairs or back filling the perforated pipe.

#### Surfacing Sewage

Sewage surfacing from the disposal field or the septic tank may indicate a failed or saturated disposal field. Disinfect the sewage spill area with lime. Have the tank pumped in order to keep the sewage underground. CAUTION: If the groundwater is near the ground surface, the septic tank may float when emptied. If water runs into the septic tank from the disposal field when the tank is pumped, then the disposal field has probably failed. A septic system construction/repair permit and inspection is required prior to making any repairs.

#### Locating the Existing System

The Environmental Health staff from CCHD has records for most existing septic systems. They are filed by street address and copies can be made upon request.

#### Septic System Construction or Repair Permits

Permits and plot plans are required to ensure that the proposed work meets the septic system construction standards and maintain up-to-date and accurate records. Contact CCHD's Individual Sewage Disposal Systems desk for requirements and assistance.



## CLARK COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

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### INFORMATION RELEASE COMMERCIAL FOOD ESTABLISHMENT CLEAN-UP

July 9, 1999  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Clare Schmutz  
Day Phone Number: 383-1263  
After Hours Number: 385-1291

As flood waters recede and business owners begin the clean-up process, there are many precautions that should be taken to ensure the health and safety of food establishment customers in Clark County. The Clark County Health District, Environmental Health Division, is issuing the following recommendations:

#### FOOD/KITCHEN ITEMS

Clean-up should be completed using a 50-100 ppm chlorine solution (approximately one tablespoon/gallon). This sanitizing mixture should be used on contaminated equipment, dishes, utensils, walls, kitchen floors, and hard-surfaced woods should be cleaned with the bleach solution. Wash all wiping cloths and linen in hot water or have them dry cleaned. Carpeting that is heavily soiled or raw sewage contaminated should be discarded or thoroughly cleaned and sanitized with specialized equipment designed for this purpose.

Any food or beverage that may have had water damage or temperature fluctuation due to power loss or other reason should be destroyed or disposed of properly. "When in doubt, throw it out."

Direct contact with flood water should be avoided as much as possible. Appropriate clothing, including boots and gloves, should be worn during clean-up. Thorough washing of contaminated skin and clothing after flood water exposure is important in preventing potential transmission of microorganisms to food. Hand washing during kitchen clean-up using warm water and soap is a very important way to ensure food safety in the kitchen or bar.