



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
Bureau for Public Health
Commissioner's Office

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IMPORTANT SEPTEMBER 2018 HURRICANE FLORENCE STORM INFORMATION

TO: Local Health Departments

FROM: Rahul Gupta, MD, MPH, MBA, FACP RG
Commissioner and State Health Officer

DATE: September 14, 2018

RE: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health is informing all local health departments (LHDs) of the impending weather and potential for significant rainfall, flooding and power outages.

Preventing Chain Saw Injuries After a Disaster

Following the landfall of Hurricane Florence, residents should be mindful of the risk of injuries from chain saws during tree removal. If you must use a chain saw, wear a hard hat, safety glasses, ear plugs, thick work gloves, chaps and boots. Always hold the saw at waist level or below, and ensure others remain at a safe distance.

Bent trees or branches may become twisted or caught on an object and suddenly released, striking anyone in the immediate area. If someone is cut, put direct pressure on the wound to stop bleeding and get medical help as soon as possible.

Trees entangled in power lines must be left for the power company. Downed trees across roads should be reported to the West Virginia Department of Transportation.

For additional information on chain saw safety, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/chainsaws.asp>.

Questions about chain saw safety may be directed to the LHD or the Bureau for Public Health.