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### **Returning to your Flooded Home**

When returning to your flooded home, **be patient**. Make sure you have received OK from the city, police, building inspections, and other government officials before returning to your home. Search and rescue efforts must be completed prior to re-entry into any area of the city that has been damaged by flooding. Downed power lines and other safety issues may prevent you from entering your home or business. Let the emergency crews do their job first. **To re-enter, you should have the following:**

- A valid ID which shows your current address. In most cases, effected areas will be controlled by security checkpoints.

### **Be careful when driving back to your flooded home or business:**

- Debris may still be in place within flooded streets. Avoid driving through flooded streets to prevent damage to your car or tires from this debris.

### **When you reach your home or business, consider the following:**

- Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry the interior.
- If you smell gas, leave immediately and notify the fire department.
- Have a licensed electrician inspect the electrical system and appliances before turning the power back on.
- Be aware of snakes, insects, alligators, or other animals driven to higher ground from flooding.
- Call professionals to remove large, up-rooted trees, etc.
- Always use the proper safety equipment when cleaning up your home or business. Use heavy gloves, safety goggles, heavy boots, long sleeve shirts and pants. Do not wade in standing water.
- Don't burn trash from your site.

**Repairing your home or business:**

- Know what your renter's or homeowner's policy covers.
- You may need to submit a claim for certain items.
- Make safety or temporary repairs first to avoid further damage to your structure.
- Take photographs of damaged items before repairs.
- Keep receipts for all materials and items purchased.