



Republic of Palau

Ministry of Health

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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FOOD SAFETY AND INJURY PREVENTION TIPS DURING STORM RECOVERY

This is a public announcement from the Ministry of Health (MOH) advising the public to take the following steps to prevent illness and injury during recovery efforts after Typhoon Surigae:

1. **Wash your hands with soap and water.** Practice proper hand washing to prevent spread of bacteria and infections. Use soap and running water or hand sanitizer.
2. **Have coolers with ice on hand** to keep refrigerated food cold while the power is out.
3. **Do not eat foods that are bulging, damaged, expired or spoiled.** Throw away food including canned, frozen, or thawed food that has an unusual odor, color, or texture.
4. **Consume safe water.** If bottled drinking water is unavailable, make sure to boil water for at least one (1) minute before consumption.
5. **Avoid drinking alcohol.** Drinking alcohol during typhoon recovery will decrease reaction time and ability to make important decisions and may result with unintended injuries.
6. **Prevent spread of diseases.** Empty out plant containers, remove old tires, and turn over anything that could collect water to stop the breeding of mosquitoes. Use insect repellent and discard trash and food scraps properly to minimize rodent infestation. Keep kitchen and bathroom areas clean and disinfected to prevent the risk of diarrhea.
7. **Beware of electrical and fire hazards.** NEVER touch a fallen power line. Report fallen power lines if possible. Avoid contact with overhead power lines during cleanup and other activities. If electrical circuits and equipment are wet or are in or near water, turn off the power at the main breaker or fuse on the service panel. Do not turn the power back on until electrical equipment has been inspected by PPUC. Do not burn candles near flammable items or leave the candle unattended. If possible, use flashlights or other battery-operated lights instead of candles.
8. **Stay informed.** Tune in to the radio to stay informed of the latest information regarding health and safety during the typhoon recovery.

For more information about disease and injury prevention during typhoon recovery, contact the Division of Environmental Health (DEH) at 488-6073/6045.