

COMING HOME

RETURN HOME IN THE DAY AND ONLY AFTER AUTHORITIES SAY IT IS SAFE.

Expect hazards and utility disruption, proceed with caution, and be prepared to leave again, if officials tell you to.

NEVER enter a building if you doubt it's safety, smell gas/rotten eggs, or see damage, or flooding. Call a building professional (ex. structural engineers, contractors, plumbers, home inspectors) or FEMA to inspect it before entering.

Don't turn on lights/flashlights or spark matches/lighters indoors until verifying there is no gas leak or electrical issues.

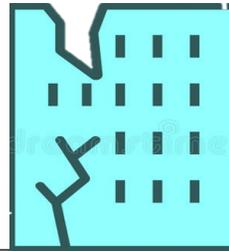
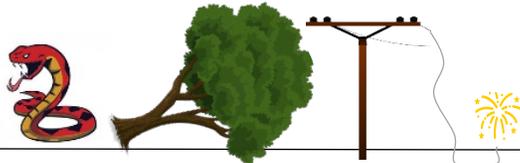
Avoid bringing children and pets on the first trip back home.

Don't corner, capture, or try to rescue wild animals and never move a dead animal.

Call local animal control or wildlife resource office if an animal is dead, injured, trapped or won't leave your home.

Don't use water until it has been tested by authorities.

Don't flush toilets until verifying sewage lines are intact.



BEFORE RETURNING

ON THE WAY HOME

BEFORE ENTERING YOUR HOME:

WHEN ENTERING YOUR HOME:

 **Inform loved ones** before you leave & when you arrive.

 **Fill up gas tanks and fully charge phones.**

 **Bring supplies:**

- Food/Water
- Camera/Phone
- Protective Clothes (sturdy boots, long sleeve shirts, pants, helmet, safety goggles, dust mask, work gloves)
- Flashlight & Portable Radio
- Portable Charger & Extra Batteries
- Proof of Residency

 **Watch for, avoid, and notify authorities & others about hazards** (ex. wild animals, damaged roads/building/overpasses, downed power lines, broken glass, flooding).

 If you encounter an animal in your home, **open a window/provide an escape route**. It will likely leave on its own.

 If bitten by an animal, **seek immediate medical attention, stay calm and try to see and remember the color and shape of the snake.**

 If a power line falls on your vehicle **stay inside the car, call 911, and warn others to stay away.**

 **Walk carefully around the outside**, checking for structural damage, roof, chimney, or foundation cracks, loose power lines, & gas leaks.

 **Before reentering, call FEMA or a building professional** (ex. structural engineers, contractors, plumbers, home inspectors) to inspect your home.

 **Keep your radio and cell phone on you** in case of emergencies.

 **Bring a flashlight & turn it on before entering the building.**

 **Enter carefully**, open cabinets and doors with caution and watching for hazards (slippery floors, broken glass, loose boards, wild animals, glass)

 If the house has been closed up for several days, enter briefly to **open doors and windows** to let the house air out for a while (at least 30 minutes) before you stay for any length of time.

 **Sniff for gas leaks**, starting at the water heater, **check the electrical system** for sparks, breaks, or frayed wires, and **check for water leaks.**

 **Shutoff damaged gas, power, and water lines** as needed. If in doubt contact your utility provider

 **Check with local authorities before using any water and pump out wells;** the water could be contaminated.