

FLOOD CLEANUP

HEALTH, SAFETY AND HYGIENE

PART 1 OF 2



A note from the Editor Susie Stack:

This information has been compiled as a result of an enquiry from a **BSCAA (Qld) member, a request from the BSCAA** and Stack Masula's growing concerns for the cleaning industry.

Stack Masula is willing to answer any workplace health and safety or environmental questions without fee if it is directly related to the flood recovery and will help to keep BSCAA (Qld) members and their cleaners safe.

I am not at the coal face as you are. Your contribution is valuable. Please call or email for suggestions and first hand knowledge.

STAY SAFE

T: 07 3890 1000

E: admin@stackmasula.com.au

Tuesday, 25 January 2011



CLEAN UP PRIORITIES

1. **RISK ASSESS** THE AREA TO BE CLEANED AND CONSIDER SITE SPECIFIC ISSUES THAT MAY AFFECT HEALTH, SAFETY OR HYGIENE.
2. PUT IN PLACE ADEQUATE **CONTROL MEASURES**
3. ENSURE THAT YOUR CLEANERS UNDERSTAND HOW TO CLEAN THE AREA SAFELY
4. ENSURE ADEQUATE **SUPERVISION** AND MONITORING OF THE CONTROL MEASURES
5. **DOCUMENT** YOUR RISK MANAGEMENT PROCESS.
6. CONDUCT REGULAR **TOOL BOX TALKS** TO ENABLE YOUR CLEANERS TO PROVIDE YOU WITH FEEDBACK

RISK MATRIX										
LIKELIHOOD	CONSEQUENCES									
	Insignificant		Minor		Moderate		Major		Catastrophic	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A. Almost certain	M	52	H	64	E	76	E	88	E	100
B. Likely	M	44	H	56	H	68	E	80	E	100
C. Possible	L	36	M	48	H	60	E	72	E	84
D. Unlikely	L	28	L	40	M	52	H	64	E	76
E. Rare	L	20	L	32	M	44	H	56	H	68
REVIEW AND MONITOR										

CLEAN UP METHODS

1. CLEAR OUT

2. DRY OUT

3. **CLEAN** – USING ALL PURPOSE CLEANERS AND A TWO BUCKET APPROACH.

4. **DISINFECT** – USING COMMERCIAL DISINFECTANTS

5. **REMOVE MILDEW** USING COMMERCIAL MILDEW REMOVERS

6. **REPEAT** THE ABOVE AFTER 24 – 48 HOURS IF NECESSARY

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

PPE REQUIREMENTS WILL **DEPEND ON THE HAZARDS** PRESENT IN THE ENVIRONMENT. TREAT FLOOD WATER AS **TOXIC**.

CONSIDER THE USE OF:

1. OVERALLS
2. WORK BOOTS OR GUM BOOTS
3. CHEMICAL RESISTANT GLOVES
4. FACE MASK
5. PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR
6. HEARING PROTECTION
7. SUN PROTECTION
8. HIGH VISIBILITY VEST
9. HEAD PROTECTION

When removing PPE **remove in the following order**: boots, overalls, gloves, eye protection and lastly mask. This will avoid contaminating the eyewear and mask. Decontaminate or dispose of and replace as per instructions.

WASH HANDS FREQUENTLY WITH SOAP AND WATER

USE THE RIGHT PPE - FACE MASKS

Face Masks cannot be used in oxygen depleted atmospheres. They fall into major categories as follows:

Dust masks – used for protection against **nuisance dusts** such as sawdust, chalk, plant related and sanding dusts. These are generally not suitable for toxic substances.

Gas filters - filter fitted into a half face mask, full face mask or hood, suitable for removing **low concentrates of certain gases and vapours**. Filters have limited use and storage lives and are specific to certain gases or vapours. Filters are also mask specific (ie. filters are matched to a particular make of mask).

Particulate Filters - These are used to **remove finely divided solid or liquid particles from the inhaled air**. Particulate filters have a prefix 'P' and a number indicating a class corresponding to filtration efficiency against a laboratory challenge aerosol of sodium chloride. **P1, P2 and P3** filters roughly correspond to the former L, M and H cartridges.

There are 3 types of particulate filter suitable for filtering finely divided solid or liquid particles, or both, from the inhaled air. These are classified, in accordance with tests in AS 1716: 1994, as follows:

- **CLASS (P1)** Intended for use against mechanically generated particulates, (**e.g silica, asbestos**).
- **CLASS (P2)** Intended for use against both mechanically and thermally generated particulates, (**e.g metal fumes**).
- **CLASS (P3)** Intended for use against all particulates including highly toxic materials, (**e.g beryllium**). Class P3 requires a full face mask.

Combined gas and particulate filters Filter combinations are used where both hazard types may exist.

Devices which Supply Air

These include airline respirators and self contained breathing apparatus. Use of this equipment requires detailed training. Example of use areas may be spray booths, PC4 biohazard labs and sandblasting. Further details are available from the Stack Masula