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Tuesday, September 28, 2004
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Health Department Hurricane Information Sheet
SAFETY TIPS FOR HOME REPAIR

As members of our community affected by Hurricane Jeanne begin the process of repairing their homes and businesses, the Department of Health suggests taking the following safety precautions to help prevent injury:

- If possible, work in pairs or groups.
- Take short breaks and work during the cooler hours of the day.
- Wear goggles, heavy gloves and steel-toed boots.
- Immediately clean all open wounds and cuts with soap and clean water. Cuts beyond minor scratches may require medical attention.
- Avoid walking through standing water. It may be contaminated, or there could be snakes and insects in the water.
- Never assume that water-damaged structures are safe; leave immediately if shifting or unusual noises occur.
- Avoid lifting more than 50 pounds of debris or building materials. Two or more people should move bulky objects.
- Avoid heat stroke and heat exhaustion by wearing light-colored, loose-fitting clothing and drinking a glass of fluid every 15 to 20 minutes.
- Only experienced individuals should use chain saws and specialized equipment. When using chain saws or other heavy equipment, wear earplugs.
- Never handle a downed power line.
- Never bring gasoline- or diesel-powered pumps, generators or pressure washers indoors as they release carbon monoxide – a deadly, colorless, odorless gas.
- Set priorities for clean-up tasks and pace the work over several days or weeks.
- Avoid exhaustion by taking frequent rest breaks and resuming a normal sleep schedule as soon as possible.
- Take advantage of disaster relief programs and services in your community.

For more information, visit the Department of Health website at www.doh.state.fl.us. Florida Emergency Information Line: 1-800-342-3557.

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