

# Hazard #12 & Hazard #13

## Sewer/Utility & Water Utility Failure



### Sewer Failure:

Sewer failure can occur because of many things such as clogged sewage line, clogged toilets, lack of electricity service, etc. Depending on the situation, sewer service can be restored in a short period of time, or a few days. When sewer failure occurs, you should:

**Conduct a visual test:** Walk through the site and see if you observe clogged toilets or overflowing sewage lines (outside).

**Sewage Systems:** You will be unable to flush the toilets if the electricity is out. The operation of flushing a toilet and depositing the waste into the sewage system may require electricity. To avoid major sewage overflow, contact your supervisor to determine if it is safe to flush toilets during an electrical outage.

**Reporting Sewage failure:** Staff must speak to the site supervisor or call the administrator on-call to determine if you should contact a licensed plumber to assist with the situation.

**How long should you go with sewage failure?** Depending on when the situation occurs, you may provide shelter-in-place for the evening and contact plumbing services the next business day. If your staff and clients are unable to remain at the ALU due to sewage failure, alternative shelter may be required in the interim, i.e. hotel accommodations. Contact your supervisor and/or after business hours the administrator on-call to report the information and obtain guidance for your situation.

**Report all sewage failure to your supervisor within 24 hours.** Document the sewage failure on an Incident Report and submit to your supervisor within 24 hours.



### Water Failure:

Water failure can occur because of many things such as droughts, frozen water pipes, electrical water pumps unable to operate due to electricity off, broken water lines, and equipment failure. Depending on the situation, water can be restored in a short period of time, or a few days. When water is lost, you should:

**Conduct a visual test:** Walk through the site and see if any faucets have water leaks or if there are running water concerns. If you see a pipe leaking or running water, attempt to turn the water valve off. Report running water or lack of water to your supervisor. If the situation occurs beyond normal business hours, contact the administrator on-call to report the situation.

**Turn off major water valves:** If running water is visual or if you can hear it, attempt to turn off water at the major valves.

**Water systems with electric pumps,** such as wells or cisterns, will not operate when the power is out. Use an alternate source of water until power is restored.

**Plumbing** can freeze during cold weather periods. Turn the pump off and then drain supply lines at the lowest point in the house, water heaters, boilers, and traps in drains of tubs, sinks, toilets, washing machines, and dishwashers. To avoid major flooding when temperatures rise, turn off supply lines to outside spigots. Only have a licensed plumber perform this task.

**Water supply:** A three-day water supply should be available at each location.

**How long should you go without water?** Depending on when the situation occurs, you might be able to provide shelter-in-place for the evening and contact a plumbing service the next business day. If there is running water and you are unable to turn off or stop the water flow, consult the administrator on-call to determine if a licensed plumber is required immediately.

**Report all water outages to your supervisor and submit the Incident Report within 24 hours.**

o the Functional Procedure for “Shelter-in-Place” as indicated.

