

Unsafe food

Floodwaters contain disease causing bacteria, dirt, oil, human and animal wastes, and farm and industrial chemicals. They carry away whatever existing on the ground and upstream. Their contact with food items including food crops in agricultural lands during flooding can make that food unsafe to eat and hazardous to human health. Power failures caused by floods also damage stored food. Refrigerated and frozen foods are affected during the outage periods, and thus must be carefully monitored and examined prior to consumption. Foods kept inside cardboard boxes, plastic bags, jars, bottles, and paper packaging are equally subject to disposal if contaminated by floodwaters. Even though the packages do not appear to be wet, they may be unhygienic with mold contamination and deteriorate rapidly. (CDC Fact Sheets 10 September 2004 and 2 September 2005; Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services 2005; NDSU various years)

<https://www.ssi.dk/~media/Indhold/DK%20-%20dansk/Smitteberedskab/Infektionshygiejne/Vandskade/Health%20risks%20and%20hazards%20caused%20by%20floods.ashx>