

Health risks remain after floodwater subsides

South Gippsland experienced some extreme weather conditions last month with flash flooding inundating a number of streets and homes.

In the clean-up after floods there are a range of health issues to consider. Some of which can also affect those living outside the worst-hit areas. The main elements to be aware of include bacterial infections, injury prevention, mosquito-borne viruses and rising damp.

Council's Environmental Health Officer, Kristy Kearney, said household mould could make some people quite ill.

"Mould will be an issue for many people after the recent rains, even those who have not been directly affected by floodwaters," she explained. "Mould in damp buildings can trigger nasal congestion, sneezing, coughing, wheezing and respiratory infections. It can also worsen asthma and allergic conditions. Those most at risk include those with weakened immune systems, allergies, severe asthma and some other chronic lung conditions. If your health is impacted then you should consult your GP for advice".

It's important to remove sources of moisture that are allowing mould to grow. After flooding or rain damage, you should notify your insurance company before removing wet floor coverings to assist drying. If walls have been affected then seek advice from your insurance company in relation to how best to dry these areas to prevent structural damage and longer term mould growth.

Further information on cleaning up after a flood and preventing mould growth is available on Council's website under Flood Emergency.

Council's Environmental Health team is on hand to answer any questions or concerns. If your house was damaged by the recent floods, an Assessment team can visit your property to ensure you receive the best support and advice for your circumstance.

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