

## **Ripple Effect #2**

### **What To Do After Floodwaters Recede?**

The American Red Cross and the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency have a free “how to” book available to anyone interested in flood recovery and repair tips. The nine steps covered in the book include:

#### ***Step 1. Take Care of Yourself First -***

Protect yourself and your family from stress, fatigue, and health hazards that follow a flood.

#### ***Step 2. Give Your Home First Aid -***

Once it is safe to go back in, protect your home and contents from further damage.

#### ***Step 3. Get Organized -***

Some things are not worth repairing and some things may be too complicated or expensive for you to do by yourself. A recovery plan can take these things into account and help you make the most of your time and money.

#### ***Step 4. Dry Out Your Home -***

Floodwaters damage materials, leave mud, silt and unknown contaminants, and promote the growth of mildew. You need to dry your home to reduce these hazards and the damage they cause.

#### ***Step 5. Restore the Utilities -***

The rest of your work will be much easier if you have heat, electricity, clean water, and sewage disposal.

#### ***Step 6. Clean Up -***

The walls, floors, closets, shelves, contents and any other flooded parts of your home should be thoroughly washed and disinfected.

#### ***Step 7. Check on Financial Assistance -***

Voluntary agencies, businesses, insurance, and government disaster programs can help you through recovery.

***Step 8. Rebuild and Floodproof*** -Take your time to rebuild correctly and make improvements that will protect your building from damage by the next flood.

#### ***Step 9. Prepare for the Next Flood -***

Protect yourself from the next flood with flood insurance, a flood response plan, and community flood protection programs. This step also includes sources to go to for additional assistance.

The book is also available for download via the Internet at  
[http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/0,1082,0\\_570\\_00.html](http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/0,1082,0_570_00.html)

Until the next Ripple Effect,

The Red River Basin Commission (RRBC)

*The RRBC is a grassroots organization that is a chartered not-for-profit corporation under the provisions of Manitoba, North Dakota, Minnesota, and South Dakota law. Our offices in Moorhead, MN and Winnipeg, MB can be reached at 218-291-0422 and 204-982-7254, or you can check out our website at [www.redriverbasincommission.org](http://www.redriverbasincommission.org).*