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Memo – Electrical Safety During a Flood/Disaster

Date: July 14, 2023

To: General Public and Electrical Contractors

From: Director Desrochers/Chief Electrical Inspector Dennis Blair

Subject: Electrical Safety during a Flood/Disaster

All electrical equipment submerged or adversely affected by the flood or rain waters need to be de-energized and inspected, serviced or replaced by a qualified-licensed professional before re-energizing.

If Electrical equipment can be moved to a higher level or moved out of the basement to prevent future flooding it is highly recommended and is required by some municipalities.

If your electrical service can be shut off safely from an outside disconnect that was not affected by flood waters, they do not need to be disconnected by the utility.

Any electrical meters affected by flood waters will need to be serviced or replaced by your Electrical utility.

Any flooded or affected Electrical circuit breakers, electrical devices (switches, receptacles, light fixtures) will need to be replaced.

Any Boilers, furnaces, hot water heaters, solar equipment, energy storage units (Tesla power walls) that have been flooded will need to be serviced or replaced by qualified-licensed personal.

The effects of flood waters may not be immediate, but they are inevitable. Corrosion of electrical equipment and devices will continue with humidity and contaminants left behind from the receding flood waters. The continuing deterioration of electrical equipment will greatly impact an overcurrent device's ability to operate safely. The corrosion on receptacle will lead to overheating.

Reminder: No Permit fees will be applied to Electrical Work Notices for flood related work.

