

## After a Disaster

Whether returning home or venturing outside for the first time, beware of new dangers that may have arisen because of the disaster. You may experience washed-out roads, downed power poles, contaminated drinking water or other hazards. Report problems promptly to local officials so that corrective measures can be taken.

### INSPECT YOUR HOME FOR DAMAGE

- ✓ Look for structural damage, loose or damaged electrical wires, and gas leaks before reentering your home. If you doubt the safety of the structure, contact public safety and your District before entering.
- ✓ Do not enter a fire-damaged house until authorities have inspected it.
- ✓ Check the refrigerator and discard spoiled food.
- ✓ Walk around your property to identify other damage and check on pets and livestock.
- ✓ Contact your housing authority and/or District for potential assistance in repairing your home and to let them know of your situation and any help you may need.

### Help Children Cope

**A child can be traumatized by a disaster whether it is experienced first-hand, seen on TV or learned about from adults. Monitor the nature and quantity of disaster-related programming your children are exposed to and contact your school to determine how teachers are dealing with the situation.**

**If your children have questions about the disaster, answer them truthfully, but don't allow the subject to dominate your conversations. Provide reassuring words and affection.**