

*****VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR BUSINESS OWNERS AFFECTED BY FLOODWATERS*****

Post-Flood Requirements for Businesses

Fire Marshal establishes guidelines for safe re-opening of businesses affected by floodwaters

Baton Rouge, LA – As Louisiana business owners scramble to address the damage left by recent floodwaters, the State Fire Marshal's Office has established the following guidelines to assist businesses by facilitating the submission of required documentation prior to reopening. These guidelines will remain in effect until November 30, 2016.

- State law requires that repairs of commercial structures that affect exits, stairs, seating arrangements, fire detection and suppression systems, or other details of construction must be submitted to the State Fire Marshal's Office for review.
- For businesses that received flood damage below four (4) feet from a finished floor and where the repair and replacement of materials and components are to be accomplished without alterations, there is no requirement to submit plans for review. However, if fire-rated construction, such as walls and doors, has been affected, business owners are to call the State Fire Marshal's Office to schedule an inspection after repairs are completed.
- If electrical systems or equipment have been compromised, owners are encouraged to contact their local permitting office for an inspection before restoring electricity to the building. In areas where there may be no permitting authorities, owners should have an inspection conducted by licensed electricians.
- For repairs to businesses that suffered direct flood damage above four (4) feet, or where alterations