

# Medication safety in a disaster



In a disaster, medication can be damaged, broken or opened, making it unsafe to take.

Throw out any medication that has been:

- ✓ in contact with floodwater
- ✓ exposed to heat or smoke from a fire
- ✓ exposed to temperatures, light or humidity outside the guidelines on the label (this can happen if you lose power)
- ✓ damaged, with a label that you can't read, a punctured bottle, or a broken blister strip.



Avoid unnecessary contact with damaged or unsafe medication, and safely dispose of it.



Don't keep medication unless you are certain the package, contents and label haven't been damaged in any way.

Small amounts of medicine waste may be given to your local community pharmacy under the Commonwealth-funded [Return Unwanted Medicines](#) project. Ask your pharmacist for more information.

Contact your doctor, pharmacist, hospital or health clinic for more information.

Call **13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84)** at any time.

Contact **13 QGOV (13 74 68)** for your nearest Public Health Unit.



**Queensland**  
Government