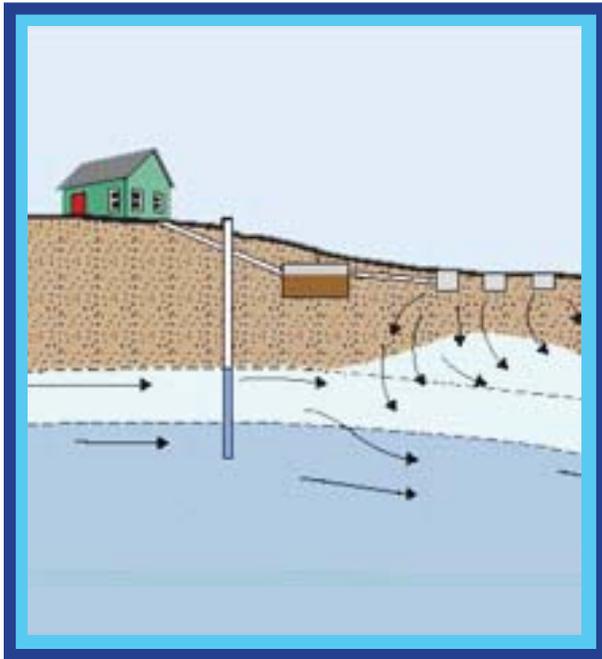


# Basic Problems

- 1 The physical damage to the system.
- 2 The potential health and pollution issues due to human and other waste products escaping from the system.



If you have any other septic system questions,  
please contact:

**Fred Sorensen,**  
Water Quality Coordinator  
University of Alaska Fairbanks,  
Cooperative Extension Service  
Phone: 907-786-6311  
E-mail: [dffes@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:dffes@uaa.alaska.edu)  
[www.uaf.edu/ces/water](http://www.uaf.edu/ces/water)

or  
Alaska Department of Conservation  
Division of Water,  
On-site Disposal Systems  
Phone: 907-262-5210  
[www.dec.state.ak.us/water/wwdp/onsite/onsite.htm](http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/wwdp/onsite/onsite.htm)

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# Septic Systems After the Flood



How to keep you and  
your septic system safe



America's Arctic University

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# What to do with your septic system after the flood?

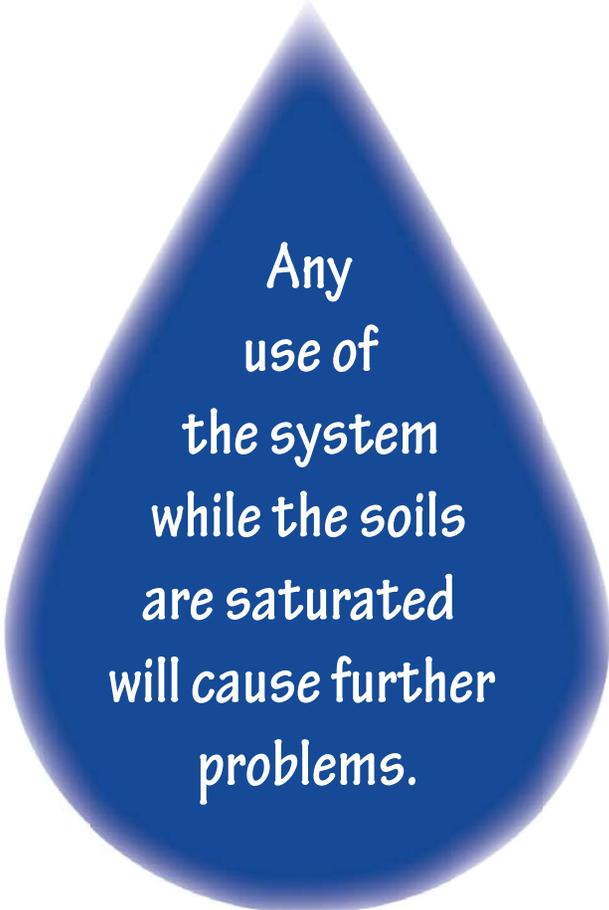
## DO NOT USE THE SEPTIC SYSTEM

### After the floodwater recedes:

- Check for surfaced sewage. If there is sewage on the ground, apply lime or a strong solution of bleach and water to the affected area. Keep children and pets away from the area.
- Disinfect thoroughly any areas in the house that sewage backup may have reached. Do not flush disinfectants down drains connected to the septic system.
- Protect drain field from compaction. Do not allow traffic on the drain field including foot and vehicular traffic.
- Do not pump the tank if the soil is still saturated. It might 'float' causing damage to the system.
- Check electrical connections, if present, for damage or wear before you turn them on.
- Check for any changes in the ground above the septic system. This could indicate damage to the system.

### After the groundwater has receded and the ground is no longer saturated to a depth below your system:

- Pump the tank. Be sure that any silt and other debris are removed.
  - If multiple chambers, be sure to clear both.
  - If there is a lift station or filters, clear and replace.
  - Resume use immediately after pumping.
- If fittings or water tightness has been compromised, have the system inspected (loss of water tightness may cause system failure).
- Repair any erosion damage to the drain field.
- Replace vegetation with suitable plant materials.
- If the system does not work properly after the floodwaters recede and the soil has dried, contact a licensed septic system professional.



Any  
use of  
the system  
while the soils  
are saturated  
will cause further  
problems.