JUNE TIP OF THE MONTH

DISASTER RECOVERY – RETURNING HOME

If you are not home when a disaster strikes and are returning following a disaster, what should you expect when you get there? Here are some things to consider when returning home!

• Check for roof, foundation, and chimney cracks before entering. Watch for loose boards, slippery floors, or fallen items. Leave immediately if the building looks unstable.

• Open a window and leave immediately if you smell gas or hear a hissing or blowing sound. Turn off the main gas valve from the outside, if you can.

• Watch for sparks, broken or frayed wires. Do not touch. If possible, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker.

• If appliances are wet, shut off electricity, unplug appliances, and let them dry before use.

• If pipes are damaged, turn off the main water valve. Check with local authorities before using any water; the water could be contaminated.

• Throw out all food and other dry goods that you suspect may have become contaminated or just came in contact with floodwater.

• If there is flooding, be aware that the basement walls may collapse and the floor may buckle if the basement is pumped out while the surrounding ground is still waterlogged.

For more information, please visit our website at: www.kitsapdem.org