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## **Use Caution When Dealing with Flood-Damaged Electrical Equipment**

**PIERRE, S.D.** – The South Dakota Electrical Commission reminds residents to be cautious in structures containing water-damaged electrical equipment.

Damage may not be initially apparent when electrical wiring and equipment has been exposed to flood waters.

“Flood waters can deposit sediment and other contaminants into electrical equipment,” said the Commission’s Executive Director J.J. Linn. “The contamination may pose a danger to those who come in contact with the equipment. Over time, corrosion can also cause electrical equipment to malfunction.”

The 2008 National Electrical Code requires replacement or reconditioning of all electrical equipment damaged by flood waters.

Electrical systems may be checked and certified by licensed electrical contractors or South Dakota electrical inspectors to ensure structures are safe to enter and the electrical systems are safe to energize.

“Residents are reminded state law requires a Commission wiring permit to energize an electrical system,” said Executive Director Linn. “The wiring permit fee costs approximately \$35.”

Questions about electrical systems should be directed to local electrical contractors, city or state electrical inspectors, or the South Dakota Electrical Commission at 605-773-3573. Additional information is found at [www.electrical.sd.gov](http://www.electrical.sd.gov)