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Use Caution When Handling 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 have been exposed to flood waters.

“Flood waters can damage electrical equipment,” said Executive Director Pamela Overweg. “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 2020 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 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 Overweg. “The wiring permit costs approximately \$100.”

Questions about electrical systems should be directed to local electrical contractors or city inspectors.