

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** August 14, 2004  
**CONTACT:** Russell Schweiss, (850) 519-4656

# **Managing Standing Water After Hurricane Charley**

*--Awareness of Hidden Dangers in Standing Water Encouraged--*

**TALLAHASSEE**— Following a hurricane, residents should be aware of the potential dangers from standing water. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is advising citizens in those areas affected by Hurricane Charley to take precaution.

Please adhere to the following precautions if standing water is in your area:

- Do not drive through the water. Depth cannot be determined in murky water and even six inches of water can cause a car to float.
- Avoid any downed or sagging power lines. Do not attempt to move or repair them.
- Standing water can carry a number of contaminants including sewage and chemicals. Do not let children play in flood waters and avoid them as much as possible.
- Following a heavy storm, sharp debris could be hidden in the water causing injury.
- Standing water may contain harmful bacteria that could cause infection.
- Allow the proper authorities to restore drainage by removing debris and sediment from drainage grates.
- Watch for snakes. Most Florida snakes are not poisonous but may still react if approached.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard M.S.  
49 Tallahassee, Florida 32399 850-245-2118 (phone) / 850-245-2128 (fax)