

**Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health
Safety and Health Hazards and Risks Associated with Public Health Nuisance Investigation
for Environmental Health Specialists (EHS)**

Hazards/Exposure	Concern	Risk*	Mitigation	References
Animal Carcasses				
Blood, body fluids	Transmission of blood borne disease	L		
Mold; infectious aerosols	Respiratory irritation; allergies, asthma	M	Observation; do not disturb; PPE to include N-95 respirator when fruiting mold is present	http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/infectaero/
Structurally unsound buildings	Slips and falls	M	Vigilance, observation, avoidance; PPE to include safety boots, protective clothing, work gloves	http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/docs/d000001-d000100/d000006/d000006.html
Sharp objects, such as nails protruding from walls and floor	Puncture wounds, cuts, scrapes	M	Vigilance, observation, avoidance; PPE to include safety boots, protective clothing, work gloves	
Dangerous animals (dogs)	Animal bites	H	Vigilance; observation; work with Animal Control; isolation of animal; avoidance	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dog_attack http://www.canismajor.com/dog/aggres1.html#Avoid
Electrical hazards	Electric shock	H	Vigilance, observation,	http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_Hurricane_Facts/Bulletin1.pdf

				avoidance	
Feces, Animal	Exposure to biological agents by inhalation, through dermal contact, to eyes or orally	L	L	Observation; avoidance of cat feces for pregnant women or immunocompromised individuals PPE to include safety boots, protective clothing; gloves; N-95 respirator in dusty conditions; safety glasses or goggles in moist conditions	http://www.ices.on.ca/informed/periodical/issue/3965-Vol13issue1Art1.pdf
Feces, Bird		L			http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2005-109/
Feces, Human		L			
Food, rotting	Odors	L		Observation; avoidance	
Fleas	Flea bites that can transmit disease; infestation of inspector's home	Bites – M Disease - L		Observation; tight cuffs; change clothes and shower before going home	
Flies, including biting flies	Bites, irritation, infection	L			
Guns, knives and other weapons	Violence			Vigilance; Observation; avoidance; working with law enforcement	
Hanta virus associated with rodent infestation					http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hanta/hps/noframes/prevent4.htm
Head lice					
Household Hazardous Waste	Chemical exposure	L		Vigilance; Observation; avoidance;	
Improperly stored solid waste such as putrescible waste/garbage	Puncture wounds, cuts, scrapes, odor	L			

Insect eggs and pupae, including maggots		L		
Mentally unstable tenants/homeowners	violence		Vigilance; Observation; avoidance; working with law enforcement	
Meth labs/ clandestine drug manufacturer	Violence, chemical exposure			
Mosquitoes	Irritation; West Nile; encephalitis	L	Appropriate clothing; insect repellent	http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm
Roaches,				
Rodent infestation - significant	Infectious disease transmission	L	Potential for rodent-borne disease	http://www.cdc.gov/rodents/cleaning_up/
Sharps, such as syringes and catheters	Needle sticks; infection			http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/bloodbornepathogens/index.html
Slippery conditions	Slips and injury	M		http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/docs/d000001-d000100/d000006/d000006.html
Snakes	Snake bite	L		http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/Docs/Pictorial_Keys/Snakes.pdf http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/docs/d001501-d001600/d001566/d001566.html http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/snakebite.asp
Ticks	Lyme disease, ehrlichiosis, others	L		http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/docs/d000901-d001000/d000961/d000961.html

- Risk is defined as the probability that a hazard related to a public health nuisance will cause injury or disease in an EHS: L = Low Risk; M = Medium Risk; H = High Risk

DRAFT