

## **Flooding and Tetanus**

- Tetanus is a disease of the nerves caused by bacteria in a contaminated wound.
- It can cause painful spasms of all muscles, convulsions, and even death.
- It can enter the body through any wound, from a slight scratch to a severe wound.
- After a flooding event, consider the following:
  - Cleaning up after a flooding event may expose you to hazards such as broken glass, exposed nails, and other threats that may cause a wound.
  - These surfaces may be dirty from exposure to flood waters, increasing the risk for tetanus.
- **Those involved with flood cleanup who have not received a tetanus booster in the last 10 years are encouraged to get a booster BEFORE beginning cleanup efforts;** if you have a severe or dirty wound, you may need a booster if you have not received one in the last 5 years
- Remember: Exposure to flood water alone is not reason to receive a tetanus vaccine