

# Better Environmental Solutions News

## Practical Solutions Today For a Better Tomorrow



For Immediate Release  
Tuesday, June 10, 2008

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### Steps to Reduce Flood Risks, Keep People Safe

Madison— Better Environmental Solutions, an award winning environmental consulting business with 15 years of flood protection experience, today released solutions to reduce flood danger and damage.

“The human cost of these floods are tragic and we need to help the flood victims get their lives back as quickly as possible,” said Brett Hulsey, president of Better Environmental Solutions, an environmental consulting firm. “There are steps that citizens, local, state, and federal policymakers can take to protect citizens and reduce the risk of this happening in the future.”

#### Steps You Can Take:

1. Get to higher ground and help neighbors whose homes are flooded.
2. Avoid contact with floodwater and swimming in flooded areas, as the water is often contaminated. If you do come in contact, wash the area thoroughly with soap and clean water.
3. Check wells that are flooded for contamination.
4. Take precautions against mold when re-entering homes or cars that have been flooded.
5. Support relief organizations like the American Red Cross.

#### Local, State and Federal Governments can:

1. Check all dams, levees, bridges and culverts for safety.
2. Elevate and/or voluntary buyout flooded properties rather than rebuilding in floodplains.
3. Update floodplain maps and strengthen zoning rules to protect people and homes from future flooding.
4. Increase protection for wetlands, forests and other natural habitat that can reduce flooding significantly, like Senator Feingold’s Clean Water Restoration Act, HR 2421.
5. Take measures to reduce greenhouse air pollution 60% by 2050 that is linked to increased extreme climate change like the rain and snow events we are experiencing.

Hulsey won FEMA’s Distinguished Public Service Award for helping people recover from floods and restoring wetland to reduce flooding. He is author of numerous reports on flooding like “Permitting Disaster,” “Subsidizing Disaster,” “Red River Rampage” and “Wetland Restoration in Waiting.”

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