If your Retail Food Establishment (RFE) has been impacted by a flooding event, please adhere to the following guidance when it is safe for you to do so and prior to serving retail food:

If there is an imminent health hazard or safe operation cannot be maintained, your RFE must discontinue operation.

1) Consult DHEC for assistance
   Contact your local DHEC office if you need assistance.

2) Salvage
   Identify what food, packaging materials, equipment, surfaces, and supplies are salvageable. Consult the “Flood: Food Salvage Assessment” section of the Emergency Action Plan (EAP). Keep in mind that any Time/Temperature Control for Safety (TCS) food that fell out of compliance with R. 61-25, Chapter 3, is non-salvageable.

3) Disposal
   Properly dispose of the non-salvageable items as per the “Flood: Food Salvage Assessment” section of the EAP.
   - Secure food to be discarded in a designated storage area away from food preparation and other storage as per R. 61-25, Chapter 6-404.11.
   - Your local DHEC office and/or insurance company may request that you document the type and amount of food being discarded/disposed of.

4) Assessment
   Determine if a safe food environment and operation can be obtained and maintained.
   - Contact your local building and codes department and other appropriate agencies to determine if the building structure is safe and approved for occupancy.
   - If you are under a Boil Water Advisory or Notice, your RFE must follow the recommendations and requirements listed in Water-Related Emergencies. Additional guidance is available in the “Contaminated Water Supply” section of the EAP.
   - If you had an Interruption of Water Service, then your RFE must follow the requirements listed in Water-Related Emergencies. Alternative water sources are allowed as described in R. 61-25, Chapter 5-104.1. Guidance is available in the “Contaminated Water Supply” section of the EAP.

5) Clean-Up
   Commence cleaning of affected areas as described in the “Flood: General Cleaning Procedures” section of the EAP.
   - Remove any standing water as soon as possible and prior to starting clean-up procedures. Standing water may be located beneath floors where refrigeration or electrical conduits are located; this water must be removed as part of the clean-up.
   - Clean and disinfect any utensils, equipment, and surfaces in the affected area.
   - Absorbent wall and insulation materials are especially susceptible to mold and should be removed and replaced as soon as possible.
   - If linens or uniforms are contaminated by flood water, they must be discarded or professionally laundered prior to use.
   - Corrective actions should be implemented as soon as possible after the flood waters recede to prevent mold and mildew growth.

6) Resuming Service
   DHEC will be in the impacted areas providing support to RFes. As soon as you are in compliance with applicable sections of R. 61-25, which may include operating under the provisions of Chapter 9-8, “Temporary Food Service Establishments,” or following the provisions EAP, you may resume operations.