



Floods in Vaucluse, September 1992.
Agence Vu. E. Franceschi

Post-flood recovery

After the flood the damage has to be made good. Three categories may be distinguished:

- Removal of mud, silt and debris;
- Disposal of flood-damaged objects;
- Repairs and restoration of services.

Flood waters contain large quantities of sediment that settle out wherever the flow is slow, on roads and open spaces and in buildings. The depth of sediment can range from a few centimetres up. Following a flash flood in the Swiss town of Brig, streets were blocked with up to 1.5 m of silt, gravel and larger rocks. The clean-up costs are high. Removal of silt from the public roads alone cost the city of Cologne DM 1 million, following the Christmas 1993 flood. The flood also leaves behind a mass of rotting vegetation and the carcasses of drowned animals. These constitute a severe health risk to the population and the medical author-