

P R E S S R E L E A S E

For Immediate Release

Thursday, July 29th, 2010

For More Information, Call:

Fire Chief Kevin Countryman

(815) 291-5845

Stephen Holbert

(815) 297-2595

Governor Quinn has proclaimed Stephenson County/City of Freeport a disaster area as a result of the recent severe storms and flooding. It is vital that residents impacted by the storm provide authorities with information on how they were impacted by this event.

Local Officials continue to collect data relevant to the recent storms and develop Initial Damage Assessment forms. Anyone impacted by the events are asked to follow this format:

- Residents and business owners inside the City of Freeport please call **815-235-8200**, between the hours of 830 am and 430 pm Monday thru Friday.
- Stephenson County residents and business owners (those outside of Freeport) please call **815-599-0344** between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm Monday thru Friday.

Callers will need to provide the following information:

- ✓ Address effected
- ✓ information about the type of address (own, rent, business)
- ✓ depth of water in basement
- ✓ water on 1st floor
- ✓ is there a living area in basement
- ✓ insurance information
- ✓ structural damage
- ✓ contact phone number

Residents impacted by this event are reminded to document any effects from the storm by utilizing video or pictures. Those impacted should maintain receipts from any purchases or expenses incurred as a result of the storm and cleanup efforts after the storm. In the event any reimbursement becomes available it is essential to be able to provide this documentation of the damage and costs incurred.

Attention Tax Assisted/Public Assistance Facilities- Such as: Municipalities, Townships, Park Districts, Forest Preserve Districts, School Districts, and any other special districts within Stephenson County. You are advised to contact Stephenson County Emergency Management Director Terry Groves to obtain a copy of a Public Assistance Damage Estimate form to complete. This form will itemize any damage and other related costs you may have incurred due to the recent storm events. You can contact Director Groves via e-mail @ stcozon@yahoo.com

and you will be e-mailed the proper forms to fill out and return. This must be completed and returned to Director Groves no later than Monday, August 1, 2010.

In response to the local flooding, Stephenson County social service agencies are working together to ensure that the needs of the communities affected are met. Once you have completed your flood assessment report with officials from the City of Freeport or Stephenson County, and you have a need for further assistance, you may call CONTACT (815-233-4357) between the hours of 8am and 5pm Monday thru Friday, and CONTACT will refer you to the proper social service agency which can provide you assistance.

Anyone wishing to volunteer their efforts is being asked to call CONTACT (815-233-4357) between 8am and 5pm and register as a volunteer.

Local food pantries need donations of non-perishable food items.

Clean up kits are being distributed thru the Red Cross, FACC, and Salvation Army.

We continue to ask for the residents to cooperate with authorities. Residents should avoid flood waters, do not walk or play in the flood waters. Drivers should avoid driving thru water on roadways. Many roads throughout Stephenson County and the City of Freeport remain closed. Do not remove or drive around barricades. Residents in Freeport are being asked to be conservative with their water usage to help take pressure off the sewer system. The drinking water system has remained intact and the drinking water is safe.

General Guidelines for Clean Up

These basic precautions can help to prevent disease:

- Minimize skin contact with flood water, especially cuts and sores. Keep them clean and covered.
- Do not allow children to play in flood water.
- Do not eat or drink anything exposed to flood water.
- Keep contaminated objects, water and hands away from your mouth, eyes and nose.
- Wash hands frequently, especially after bathroom use, before eating and immediately following contact with flood water or contaminated objects or surfaces.
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General Cleaning: discard any contaminated objects that cannot be thoroughly washed or laundered.

- Wash contaminated surfaces and objects with warm, soapy water and disinfect with a bleach and water solution made of no more than 1 cup of bleach per 1 gallon of water. For objects that would be damaged by bleach, use a home or laundry disinfectant.
- Make sure to read and follow label instructions. Do not use ammonia. Do not mix ammonia and bleach; the vapors are hazardous.
- Scrub and wash all objects in the affected area of your home, including clothes, exposed to flood waters. Use warm, not hot, tap water with soap.
- For information on disinfection of water wells you may contact the Stephenson County Health Dept. @ 815-235-8271.

The Pecatonica River level is currently at 13.72 feet. The river level is receding slower than previously anticipated. It is now expected to fall below flood stage (13.0 feet) Saturday, July 31st. There is a 50% chance of precipitation Friday with rainfall amounts between a quarter and half an inch possible. 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms Friday night with rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

RECENT UPDATES:

Lime will be available for pick up at Stephenson and Sheridan.

The Salvation Army is accepting donations of clean clothing and toys.

The Red Cross shelter is on stand by status, anyone needing shelter should call 815-233-0111.

In Freeport- The following streets/roads are now open- Walnut Rd., Route 75, Fairgrounds Rd., and Henderson Rd. Streets adjacent to the Parkside Housing Project are open to residents only. Louis, Mary, and Johanna are open to residents only.

In Stephenson County- Flooded Roads Include:

Cherry Hill between Rte.20 & Rock City
E Fawver between Dakota & Fawver
Bolton between Preston & Rte. 20
Yellowcreek between Hollywood & Rte. 20
Lancaster Rd.
Van Buren Rd.

Closed Roads

Stephenson West of Rink Rd.
Van Brocklin between Lily Creek & Stephenson
Rink between Cedarville & Wagner
Lamm east of Rock City
Silberman between Pearl City & Block