

## PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
Tuesday July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**For More Information, Call:**  
Fire Chief Kevin Countryman  
(815) 291-5845  
Stephen Holbert  
(815) 297-2595

As the population of Stephenson County continues to deal with the aftermath of this week's heavy rains, local government officials and employees are collecting data to provide the State of Illinois with information related to the weather event that occurred on July 22<sup>nd</sup> thru July 24<sup>th</sup>. This information will be used to assist with the request to the State of Illinois for disaster assistance that was submitted on July 24<sup>th</sup>.

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 continue to provide authorities with information on how they were impacted by this event.

As we continue the assessment phase of the disaster Unified Command is asking residents to follow this simple format:

- Residents and business owners inside the City of Freeport please call **815-235-8200**, between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 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.
- Pearl City area residents can go to the Pearl City Fire Station/City Hall and complete the initial damage assessment form on Wednesday July 28<sup>th</sup>, between the hours of 2pm-5pm and 6pm-9pm.

Residents 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

- 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.

The Pecatonica River level is currently at 14.90 feet and is expected to slowly recede over the next several days. It is expected to fall below flood stage sometime Thursday afternoon or evening. There is a 20% chance of precipitation tonight and a 50% chance Wednesday. Total precipitation is expected to be less than half an inch.

The following resources are available for Freeport and Stephenson County residents to help with the aftermath of the flood.

- Sand and sandbags have been placed at Taylor Park School, at Carl Sandburg School, and at the Krape Park maintenance building (with access only through Woodside Drive). Residents may bring shovels to collect sand and sandbags at these locations.
- The American Red Cross currently has a shelter at First Lutheran Church on Galena & Jackson in Freeport, for those residences displaced by the flood. Residents displaced by the flood who are in need of shelter may contact the Red Cross at (815) 233-0011.
- The City of Freeport has placed dumpsters throughout the City of Freeport to help residents dispose of flood-damaged materials. Please refrain from throwing bulky items such as appliances and furniture in the dumpsters. The City is attempting to provide additional dumpsters. The waste haulers are inundated with calls for service at this time, please be patient, authorities are working with Illinois Emergency Management to provide assistance in removing flood debris. More information will be available soon and will be distributed through local media outlets.
- Two dump site locations have been established for residents on the east side of Freeport. Residents may deposit debris along the curblin @ Crocker & Henderson and a second location @ Sheridan & Stephenson in Ross's Auto Glass parking lot. There are no dumpsters at these locations, deposit debris and it will be hauled away at a later time.
- Residents who need flood assistance but do not know whom to contact may call the Freeport Police Department non-emergency number, (815) 235-8222.
- Tetanus immunizations are available at the Stephenson County Health Dept. 10 W. Linden, Freeport. There is a fee associated with the Tetanus immunization.
- Residents may go to the [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) website and register to receive pertinent updates via cell phone/text messaging.
- For information on disinfection of water wells you may contact the Stephenson County Health Dept. @ 815-235-8271.
- FACC will be hosting a mobile lunch wagon on Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup> from 10 am until approximately 2 pm in the Taylor Park School parking lot. Individuals will be provided with food items to prepare a small lunch.