

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

For Immediate Release

Wednesday, July 28th, 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.

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.

The Pecatonica River level is currently at 14.20 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 40% chance of precipitation tonight and a 10% chance Thursday.

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 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.
- Tetanus immunizations are available at the Stephenson County Health Dept. 10 W. Linden, Freeport, Monday thru Friday from 9-11pm and 1-3pm. There is a fee associated with the Tetanus immunization.
- Residents may go to the 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.

RECENT UPDATES:

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. Hancock may re-open tomorrow. Streets adjacent to the Parkside Housing Project remain closed as well as Louis, Mary, Hooker, and Johanna.

In Stephenson County- Closed Flooded Roads Include:

Becker School between Hamm & Bolton
 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 due to damage

Stephenson West of Rink Rd.
 Baileyville between South & Lamm
 Van Brocklin between Lily Creek & Stephenson
 Farwell Bridge @ Maize Rd.
 Rink between Cedarville & Wagner
 Lamm east of Rock City
 Klinger east of Farwell Bridge
 Silberman between Pearl City & Block

Flood Damaged Items Drop Off

Residents may drop off flood damaged items @
Stephenson & Sheridan
Henderson & Crocker

There are no dumpsters at these locations, place flood debris curb side and it will be removed.

Local Social Service agencies are preparing to provide clean up kits, more info later.