



City of Freeport, Illinois

GEORGE W. GAULRAPP
MAYOR

230 W. Stephenson Street
Freeport, Illinois 61032
Telephone (815) 235-8200
Facsimile (815) 232-7925

July 26, 2010

Dear Resident:

Last week brought eleven inches of rain to Freeport, causing flooding throughout our city. We have residents with waterlogged basements, and even first floors in some cases. We have businesses underwater that may not be able to open their doors for some time. We have citizens who have been displaced from their homes because of the floodwaters. It is a difficult time for many in the City of Freeport, and I want you to know that we are committed to making the damage assessment, clean-up and recovery process as easy as possible for our citizens.

When we have a natural disaster like a flood, there are four phases in the emergency management process.

1. **Response** is the first phase, which is just winding down after last weekend. In this phase, we had water and sewer department personnel working around the clock to ensure the continued operations of the water and sewer treatment plants. We had police department personnel ensuring public safety on our roadways and throughout the City. Fire department personnel went door-to-door in the hard hit areas to see if people needed help – and in some cases moving people out of flooded areas to safety. We had street department personnel barricading flooded roadways and clearing debris to keep citizens safe.
2. **Assessment** comes next. That's the phase we're in right now. In this phase, we gather information about how the flood has impacted our citizens, finding out who has been affected and what damages have been sustained. This is an important phase, because this is when we gather the information to submit to State and Federal agencies, which they use to determine whether or not a disaster is declared.
3. **Recovery and clean-up** is the next phase. During this phase local residents and agencies work to clean up from flood damages and restore properties.
4. **Mitigation** is the final phase. In this phase, we look for ways to minimize or eliminate the possibility of flood damage in the future.

It is important to know that since we are in the assessment stage right now, we do not know what – if any – funds may be available in the future to help with flood losses. There are a few things you can do right now.

- If you've had flood water in your home, you'll want to take precautions during the clean-up phase. Attached to this letter is an information letter from the Stephenson County Health Department to help guide you through the process.
- Document everything. Take lots of photographs, preferably digital. Keep all receipts – from post-flood cleaning supplies to work by contractors to costs for hauling away flood-damaged furniture. Keep your receipts in a safe place in the event that funds may be available to reimburse some of your costs later. It's important to stress that we do not know, at this time, whether funds will be available.
- Call your insurance agent. If you have homeowners, renters, or flood insurance, call your insurance agent to report your loss and see what benefits may be available to you under your policy.
- Report your flood damage to the City. You can do so by completing the attached form and forwarding it to my office. Or you can call any number at City Hall or the Water and Sewer Commission to report your flood damage. Your information will be compiled with all other residents' information and forwarded to the State of Illinois for their use in determining whether or not to declare a disaster. If you live in Stephenson County outside City limits, you may call 815-599-0344.

You may remember that following the flood in 2007, state and federal agencies established a Disaster Assistance Center in the Lincoln Mall. While it is too soon to know whether or not they will do that again, we will make information available through local media outlets if one is established.

We have begun placing dumpsters throughout the City for residents to use to dispose of flood-damaged items. We are asking that residents use the dumpsters only for flood-damaged items, and to refrain from placing large furniture items in the dumpsters. If you have large furniture items that need to be removed, please call your waste hauler to arrange for them to collect them. Then save your receipt for payment to the hauler.

If you have any questions, you may call any number at City Hall. The person who answers the phone will answer your questions.

I know that many of you are tired from all the clean-up work, frustrated, even scared about how you are going to recover from the flood loss. And I wish I could give you definite answers about what resources will be available for you and your neighbors. I want you to know that we will get information out to you as soon as it is available. Here in Freeport, we have a great reputation for helping neighbors in need. And that's exactly what we need right now. If you see someone who needs help, please lend a hand. Working together, we can all get through this.

Sincerely,

Mayor George W. Gaulrapp

FLOOD DAMAGE ASSESSMENT FORM
2010

Address of damaged property _____

Caller's name _____

Caller's relationship to the property

Owner Tenant Business Owner Other _____

Caller's Contact Information

Address _____

Phone Number _____

E-Mail Address _____

Single Family Multi-Family Manufactured Home Business

Own? Rent?

Highest Depth of Water in Basement _____ feet _____ inches

Highest Depth of Water in First Floor _____ feet _____ inches

Is there a basement living area? Yes No

If so, which of these are in the basement?

Living Room Bathroom Bedroom Kitchen

Does the person have insurance on the property?

Homeowners Renters Flood

What is the nature of the damage? (Please list damage inside and outside the home, and please list any appliances like furnaces and water heaters that were damaged.)

Is there any structural damage? Yes No

If yes, please describe _____

What is the estimated total cost of damages? \$ _____

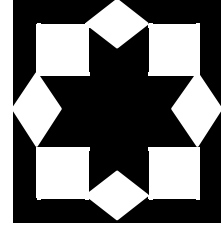
If you are a citizen completing this form, please send to
City of Freeport Mayor's Office
230 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL 61023
(815) 235-8200 * (815) 232-7925 fax
maeirhart@cityoffreeport.org

STEPHENSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Building a Healthy Community

www.stephensonhealth.com

CRAIG BEINTEMA, MS, LEHP, CPHA
Public Health Administrator



10 W. Linden Street
Freeport, IL 61032-3310
(815) 235-8271
FAX: (815) 232-7160

To: Press Release

From: Craig Beintema
Administrator

Date: July 24, 2010

Subject: Cleaning Up After a Flood

Concerns about personal health and safety may increase in the days and weeks following recent flooding. The Stephenson County Health Department provides the following information which may be useful to citizens.

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.

Take the following precautions to prevent injury:

- Turn off main power switches if necessary. Air out and wipe dry all appliances and electrical outlets exposed to water before use.
- If you have fuel oil or gas systems, be sure tanks are secure and all lines are free from breaks.
- Wear rubber boots, gloves and an N95 or HEPA respirator mask during removal and cleanup.
- Open windows if possible to ventilate and dry the area. Fans can be used to help with drying.

The following cleaning guidelines may help prevent the transmission of disease and reduce property loss:

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.

Specific Cleaning:

Carpets and Rugs

Carpets and rugs that cannot be thoroughly dried and cleaned should be discarded and replaced. If the damaged area is small, you may be able to save the carpet by cleaning the area with a mild detergent. There also are professional home cleaning services that may be able to clean your carpets.

Floors, Drapes and Furniture

Floors and hard surfaces should be cleaned with a bleach and water solution made of no more than one cup of bleach per one gallon of water, or use a household disinfectant. A professional cleaner may be able to clean furniture and drapes.

Basement

Pump out standing water and remove all debris. Wait to pump until flood waters have receded below basement level. Allow debris to drain before disposal. Strain away all liquids from trash. After straining trash, wrap in newspaper and store in tight-lid garbage cans until pick up. Paneling and wallboard must be immediately cleaned and dried thoroughly. If the damage is severe, they should be removed and replaced.

Food and Water Safety

Use only bottled or disinfected water for drinking, cooking, tooth brushing and bathing until you are sure the water supply is safe. Discard food exposed to contaminated waters. If refrigerators or freezers have taken in water, discard food stored there. If no water entered these appliances, but power was lost long enough for foods to thaw, discard all partially thawed foods unless prepared immediately. Discard milk, cheeses and other foods prone to spoilage. Completely thawed meats and vegetables should be discarded without question. Discard all bulging or leaking canned food and any food stored in jars. Undented, intact cans can be cleaned with a bleach solution before use.

After the Flood – (<http://www.idph.state.il.us/pdf/aftflood.pdf>)

Common Questions and Answers about Indoor Mold –
(http://www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/factsheets/mold_qa_fs.htm)