

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

For Immediate Release
Sunday July 25th, 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 just beginning to collect data to provide the State of Illinois with information related to the weather event that occurred on July 22nd thru July 24th. This information will be used to assist with the request to the State of Illinois for disaster assistance that was submitted on July 24th.

As we begin 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.

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.

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. Residents in Freeport are being asked to be conservative with their water usage to help take pressure off the sewer system. The drinking water is safe.

The Pecatonica River level is currently at 16.18 feet and is expected to slowly recede over the next several days. No additional rain is expected until possibly the evening of Tuesday, July 27th.

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 for those residences displaced by the flood. That shelter is now at capacity, and the agency is working on a secondary location, should the need arise. Residents displaced by the flood who are in need of shelter may contact the Red Cross at (815) 233-0011.
- The City of Freeport will be working with local waste companies to place dumpsters throughout the City of Freeport to help residents dispose of flood-damaged materials. More information will be available soon and will be distributed through local media outlets.
- Residents who need flood assistance but do not know whom to contact may call the Freeport Police Department non-emergency number, (815) 235-8222.