

Iroquois County EMA

Press Release

1st of March 2018 at 23:00

For immediate release: Flood Update

Waters in Iroquois County continue to recede. The American Red Cross shelter at Trinity Church is open, and currently has 37 occupants. The animal shelter at Jefferson Plaza is open, and currently has 14 pets.

Iroquois County, City of Watseka, and the State of Illinois have all declared disasters. Watseka extended their declaration last evening and Iroquois County's declaration was extended at today's special county board meeting. The Iroquois County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is open to coordinate recovery efforts. If your home was damaged by flood, please report it to the EOC at (815) 432-6997. Damage assessment teams started early today, and will continue Friday to gather information in an attempt to apply for federal aid.

As families return to their homes, they will need to contact their insurance companies, qualified inspectors/contractors, and/or their landlords.

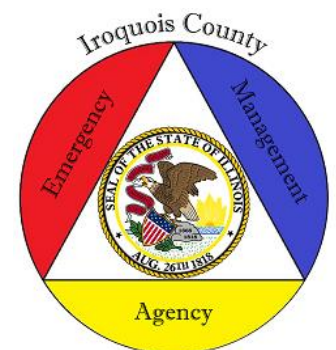
- Landlords are responsible for their property, including its maintenance and repair.
- Ameren and Nicor will not reconnect services until the homeowner has a qualified electrician and/or plumber inspect their home and provide a receipt.
- If you have insurance, call your insurance agent!
- Be wary of mold in homes. Further information on mold in homes can be found at the ICPHD website at <http://www.co.iroquois.il.us/health-department/environmental-health/emergency-preparedness/>.
- Pets are susceptible to mold. Make sure your home is ready for your pet.
- Beware of predatory contractors.
- Watseka will begin picking up flood garbage tomorrow. Residents should bring the garbage to the curb. Electronics, hazardous materials, and tires will not be taken.

The flood help resource center at the Big R Warehouse at 433 W. Walnut Street in Watseka will continue tomorrow, Friday from 9 AM to 9 PM. Numerous charities, governmental agencies, and other organizations will be setup there to meet with flood victims to provide assistance. If transportation is needed, especially for those located in rural Iroquois County or other impacted towns, please call Show Bus at 800-525-2454.

On Friday, WIQI Radio and ICPHD will host an Iroquois County material distribution event at the First Trust & Savings Bank parking lot on the corner of Walnut & 3rd Street, beginning at noon. All items distributed to flood victims have been generously donated by numerous organizations, agencies, churches and individuals.

If people are looking to donate to the cause, monetary donations can be sent to the Iroquois County Long-Term Recovery Committee at the First Trust & Savings Bank at PO Box 160, 120 E. Walnut Street, Watseka.

Lutheran Church Ministries and Team Rubicon are assembling to perform muck-out operations in Iroquois County on Saturday. To request assistance, contact Iroquois County EOC at (815) 432-6997. In order to have these teams help clean your home, a responsible adult must be present. Muck out does not replace professional services. Lutheran Church Ministries and Team Rubicon are working alongside Iroquois County. Any other agency offering free muck-out is not an authorized volunteer organization in Iroquois County. Team Rubicon will be supervising spontaneous volunteers, which must pre-register at a volunteer reception on Friday from 4 PM to 8 PM at the Watseka School District Unit Office, located at 1411 W. Lafayette Street, Watseka, IL. Spontaneous volunteers that do not pre-register on Friday are not authorized by Iroquois County.



"Be prepared. Respond without hesitation. Help recover."