

Iroquois County EMA

Press Release

3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2018 at 17:30

For immediate release: Flood Update

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The American Red Cross shelter at Trinity Church is open, and currently has 9 occupants. The animal shelter at Jefferson Plaza is open, and currently has 6 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 have been going around to gather information to attempt to apply for federal aid.

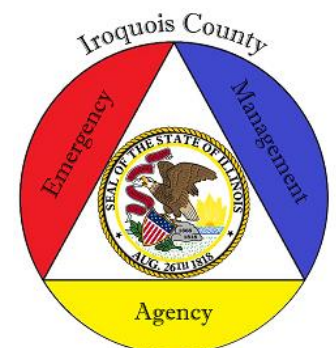
As families return to their homes, they will need to contact their insurance companies, qualified inspectors/contractors, and/or their landlords.

- 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.

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 assembled today to perform muck-out operations in Iroquois County today. 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. Southern Baptist Disaster Relief will start assessments next week. Homes that called for assistance that were not reached today will be addressed by muck-out crews as soon as possible.

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