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Posted: Thursday, February 14, 2008 4:02 PM CST

Money flows in as water flows out Officials concerned some may be missing out

LAFAYETTE, Ind. - More than \$2.5 million in federal grant money has been approved for individuals and families in northern Indiana who were affected by the recent storms and flooding, but officials with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) believe many qualified residents have not yet registered.

To date, 849 households have applied for assistance in the designated counties of Carroll, Cass, Elkhart, Fulton, Jasper, Marshall, Pulaski, Tippecanoe and White. Individuals may register for assistance online at www.fema.gov anytime or by calling toll-free 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing or speech-impaired, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week. Applicants may also call to check on the status or update their applications. Officials remind county residents that the deadline to register with FEMA is March 31. They urge anyone not yet registered to do so as soon as possible.

Of the approximately \$2.5 million approved under FEMA's Individuals and Households Program, more than \$2.3 million was approved in Housing Assistance grants. Also, approximately \$149,000 has been approved for Other Needs Assistance grants to help with disaster-related expenses not covered by insurance or other organizations. To date, 622 home inspections have been completed.

"Do not disqualify yourself. If you were affected by the disaster, please register with us," said FEMA's Mike Smith. "Don't pass up the chance to get aid just because you don't think you're eligible."

Indiana officials echo that statement. "Residents may be eligible for reimbursement on repair or cleanup they've already finished. They could also receive assistance for property losses or damage not covered by insurance," said J. Eric Dietz of IDHS. "They'll never know unless they register with FEMA. SBA officials encourage anyone who has received an application from the SBA to turn it in as soon as possible in order to be eligible for any further assistance.

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced that some residents of the nine designated counties may be eligible for special Disaster Unemployment Assistance Benefits (DUA). To be eligible, workers or self-employed individuals must be unemployed as a result of a major disaster in a major disaster area. Contact the nearest WorkOne Center for details.

The deadline to file for affected workers is Friday, March 7, 2008 at the residents' local WorkOne center.

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

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Posted: Friday, February 15, 2008 8:23 AM CST

Mitigation teams offer advice to beat flooding Reports

LAFAYETTE, Ind. - Mitigation specialists offering building tips to make homes more resistant to storms and flooding will be available in Jasper, White, Carroll and Pulaski counties from Feb. 15- Feb. 28.

The mitigation teams are sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in cooperation with local businesses, building supply centers and relief agencies.

"Everyone is invited and we urge all to attend, including homeowners, building contractors and architects," said FEMA mitigation specialist Michael Klitzke. "Information provided includes cleanup and repair techniques for flooded homes; how to prevent mold growth; ways to flood-proof your home and how to buy flood insurance."

Building or rebuilding properly, with the best technical guidance and using tested techniques, will assure that homes will be fortified against and more resistant to future storms and flooding.

Mitigation teams will be available as follows:

Jasper County
Feb. 15-16, 2008
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Remington True Value, 508 Harrington Ct W,
Remington, IN

Walmart,
White County
Feb. 18-20, 2008
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

White County
Feb. 21-23, 2008
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
1088 W. Broadway Monticello, IN

Ace Hardware
918 N. Main
Monticello, IN

Carroll County
Feb. 25-26, 2008
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Pulaski County
Feb. 27-28, 2008
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Wallman Grocery,
123 E. Franklin St
Delphi , IN

Ace Hardware,
854 N. Plymouth Rd.,
Winamac, IN

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Garrett Family Out of Luck After Flooding

Updated: Feb 14, 2008 08:59 PM EST

(Garrett - WANE) Many people in northeast Indiana are still cleaning up from last week's flooding. But for some, picking up the pieces isn't even an option.

Sherry Schenkel has lived in her Garrett home for 17 years. Now all that's left is mold, mud, and memories. "Everything's just destroyed. Every bottom drawer. The mattresses are soaked." She says there was about a foot of standing water in the house.

Schenkel says what makes it so frustrating is that her home was on a list to be bought-out, because it's on a flood plain. But money for her home went to victims of the 2003 flood in Decatur. Now, all she can do is start over. "You can't imagine what it's like to have nothing. You work all these years..."

Schenkel's home is one of two in the Holiday Lakes subdivision that's been listed as "destroyed" by DeKalb County Homeland Security. That's the most severe level, meaning the home is a complete loss.

Roger Powers told NewsChannel 15 what his department looks for. "We look at what was the height of the water, how long it was in the house, the drywall - it's buckling, the floors buckling, things like this," Powers says.

Representatives from FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, will go to Garrett this weekend, and do their own assessment. But that will take time, and with limited flood insurance, it could be a long road for the Schenkel family.

The Red Cross has moved the Shenkel family into an apartment

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11:34 AM February 15, 2008

Flood waters receding on Lake Shafer

Associated Press
February 15, 2008

MONTICELLO, Ind. -- Water levels are dropping on Lake Shafer, where an ice jam caused flooding earlier in the week, emergency officials said.

The water level dropped about 2 feet between Wednesday afternoon and Thursday evening, said White County Emergency Management Agency director Gordon Cochran.

"The ice is still there, but it seems like the water is moving a little bit better," he said.

A message left with Cochran Friday morning wasn't immediately returned.

The Norway Dam experienced an unexpected spike in water flow Thursday afternoon, Cochran said. By that night, there were noticeable gaps on the surface of the ice jam.

Jim Fitzer, a spokesman for Northern Indiana Public Service Co., the power company that operates the dams, said the Norway Dam shouldn't have any problem handling the ice or the water behind it as the jam breaks up.

Tim Dwyer, a suburban Chicago resident, said the pier at his summer lake home was damaged.

"The ice has lifted up everybody's piers," he said.

The 2 1/2-mile ice jam caused boats to be jolted from docks and boat houses to be flooded.

Gov. Mitch Daniels authorized the Army National Guard earlier this week to help build protective sand walls and take other safety measures to protect 100 to 200 homes and roads in the area about 20 miles north of Lafayette.

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Guard Fills Sandbags To Protect Homes From Flood

POSTED: 9:58 am EST February 14, 2008

MONTICELLO, Ind. -- Indiana National Guard members filled about 9,000 sandbags to use against rising floodwaters caused by an ice jam on Lake Shafer.

The pileup of frozen chunks across the lake forced lake levels to rise by 8 inches Wednesday, causing water to seep into homes, said Gordon Cochran, White County's Emergency Management director. Late in the day, the water appeared to have dropped more than a foot, which might signal a shift or break in the ice jam, Cochran said.

The flooding threat convinced Gov. Mitch Daniels to authorize the Army National Guard to help build protective sand walls and take other safety measures that may affect 100 to 200 homes and roads in the area about 20 miles north of Lafayette.

"I've been here since 1988 and there's never been water in here," said Ron Motuelle of his lakefront home he feared could become flooded. "I hope the Guard can take a little stress off, but once the water starts, there is no stopping it."

Soldiers from 1638th Transportation Company from Remington and Detachment 1 from Gary along with the 1538th Transportation Company from Elkhart assisted, the National Guard said.

An ice jam is unpredictable, said Scott Morlock, chief of the hydrologic networks section for the U.S. Geological Survey in Indianapolis.

Sometimes, when high water flows are followed by bitter cold, small rafts of ice can form, he said. These pieces can catch on rocks or narrow points and build up to create a dam.

The 2 1/2 miles of ice jam on Lake Shafer had already caused boats to be jolted from docks and boat houses to be flooded.

Cochran was unsure whether any homes had been damaged by the jam.

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Flood waters receding on Lake Shafer

Updated: Feb 15, 2008 11:23 AM EST

Monticello - Water levels are dropping on Lake Shafer, where an ice jam caused flooding earlier in the week.

White County Emergency Management Agency director Gordon Cochran says the water level dropped about 2 feet between Wednesday afternoon and Thursday evening.

The 2½ mile ice jam on Lake Shafer caused boats to be jolted from docks and boat houses to be flooded.

One man who owns a summer home on the lake about 20 miles north of Lafayette says many piers have been damaged by the ice.

Governor Daniels authorized the Army National Guard to help build protective sand walls and take other safety measures to protect homes and roads in the area.

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Lake Shafer water receding after jam

By JOE LARSON
jlanson@journalandcourier.com

February 15, 2008

MONTICELLO -- Water is finally flowing under and through the ice jam on Lake Shafer, causing flood waters to rapidly recede.

The water level dropped about 2 feet between 5 p.m. Wednesday and 7 p.m. Thursday, said Gordon Cochran, director of White County's emergency management agency.

"The ice is still there, but it seems like the water is moving a little bit better," he said.

Tim Dwyer, a suburban Chicago resident who owns a summer home on Lake Shafer, was glad the water went down so quickly but said the damage to his property had already been done.

"The ice has lifted up everybody's piers," he said. His was about 1 1/2 to 2 feet higher when the ice was at its fullest.

When everything finally gets back to normal, "the pier probably won't sit right," he said. "It's bowed."

The Norway Dam experienced an unexpected spike in water flow Thursday afternoon, according to Cochran. By Thursday night, there were noticeable gaps on the surface of the ice jam.

Jim Fitzer, a spokesman for Northern Indiana Public Service Co., the power company that operates the dams, said the Norway Dam shouldn't have any problem handling the ice or the water behind it as the jam disintegrates.

"We're not anticipating any problems," he said.

NIPSCO raised and lowered the water level of Lake Shafer to help break loose the ice, Fitzer said. The license the company has for the dam allows NIPSCO to increase or decrease the water level by about three inches.

Other agencies also worked to combat the flooding.

Indiana Army National Guard soldiers and other volunteers filled sandbags and set them around homes threatened by flooding late Wednesday and into Thursday morning.

By Thursday afternoon, the water had receded enough that most of those temporary barriers were no longer necessary.

Mark Kirby, director of the Tippecanoe Emergency Management Agency, said the water unleashed from behind the ice jam doesn't pose any threat to the Lafayette area.

"I think it wouldn't be a factor for us, at least not anything that will be significant," he said.

-- Contributing: Curt Slyder/cslyder@journalandcourier.com

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New flood worries set in even as Lake Shafer ice jam holds steady

STAFF REPORTS

MONTICELLO - The National Weather Service is forecasting possible heavy rain for Sunday. More flooding could happen for this beleaguered area along the Tippecanoe River.

With an ice jam on Lake Shafer, Gordon Cochran is concerned about flooding. He is the director of the White County Emergency Management Agency.

He said a thunderstorm Sunday would probably cause more flooding.

"That's our biggest fear now," he said. "Anything we get will just run off.

"If it warms up to 40 degrees and we get rain, the ice will melt and join the rain. Plus, the tributaries will be involved. We will be right back where we were."

As of 9 p.m. Thursday, there has been no change in the ice jam on Lake Shafer, Cochran said.

The water level dropped 2 feet Thursday and is holding steady, he said.

Here is the National Weather Service forecast this weekend for the Monticello area:

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 33. Calm wind becoming south between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday night: A chance of freezing rain, mainly after 2 a.m. Increasing clouds, with a low around 26. South wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Sunday: Periods of rain. The rain could be heavy at times. High near 43. South wind between 10 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90 percent.

Sunday night: Periods of snow. Low around 19. Chance of precipitation is 80 percent.

Monday: A 30 percent chance of snow showers. Cloudy and cold, with a high near 19.

Monday night: Cloudy, with a low around 8.

Read more in Saturday's Journal & Courier.

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Maintain health of Guard units

February 15, 2008

Residents along Lake Shafer and the surrounding area expressed relief when 42 members of the Indiana Army National Guard arrived late Wednesday to help ease the latest threat of flooding.

Chunks of ice logjammed areas where the lake narrowed, causing water levels to rise by up to 8 inches.

Activated by Gov. Mitch Daniels, members of the Gary-based 1638th Transportation Company assisted volunteers and emergency workers already on the scene with sandbagging efforts.

The Indiana National Guard is more than 14,200 strong.

Over the years, hundreds of Guard members have responded to disasters from coast to coast, including Hurricane Katrina and recent wildfires in California.

By day, members work in all fields.

They are doctors and attorneys, entrepreneurs and mechanics, teachers and social workers. They train periodically, waiting for a crisis to summon them to action.

Once called, they are generally making a difference where needed within 12 hours.

But 4,048 men and women of the Indiana National Guard are currently mobilized.

They have been deployed either overseas or sent elsewhere within the United States to support efforts such as border control or homeland security.

In January, Hoosiers assigned to the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team were honored at the RCA Dome before they departed to an assignment in Iraq that will last about a year.

The National Guard is comprised of units from all 50 states and some organized territories, including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan have strained Guard readiness at all levels and in all states.

At times, National Guard and Reserve units have comprised up to 50 percent of the U.S. force in Iraq.

Recruiting and retaining quality men and women has become increasingly difficult because of the likelihood of deployment into battle zones.

Last week, officials at the Pentagon reacted angrily to a congressionally commissioned report. Generated by the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves, the report said the Guard and Reserve units lack sufficient resources to respond adequately to potential chemical, biological or nuclear attacks.

Experts agree that this vital part of the military must be given adequate resources to transform from an organization trained in Cold War tactics to one that can anticipate and respond to 21st century challenges.

A \$49 billion annual recapitalization budget will help, Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, said last week.

The money will help 77 percent the National Guard obtain needed equipment by 2013. Currently, 61 percent is so equipped.

Local Hoosiers are fortunate the Indiana National Guard was ready to respond Wednesday, when the governor asked for help in Monticello.

Considerable effort must be expended to make sure that, in the future, Guard units in every state will be trained, equipped and ready when duty calls.

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Latest Round of Flooding Finally Recedes in White County

Updated: Feb 15, 2008 11:35 AM EST

The latest round of floodwater is finally receding in White County. Over the last two days a large ice jam has caused flooding on Lake Shafer and the Big Monon Creek, forcing several homeowners to evacuate.

White County Emergency Management Director Gordy Cochran said since Wednesday the water level has dropped about two feet. Forty National Guard members came to help sandbag Wednesday night. Cochran says the group worked for ten hours, stacking sandbags around homes. Cochran said so far, the hard work is paying off.

"The water is receding. It's coming out of the houses, buildings, businesses so on. We've got approximately eight five to ninety thousand bags that we've filled. We've still got maybe six thousand left so if anyone needs sandbags they can still pick them up at Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District on West Shafer Drive," said Cochran.

Cochran said the ice jam seems to be breaking up. "I just got off the phone with NIPSCO and apparently with our working the dam levels back and forth its shifted the ice or the water has ate the ice up enough that its actually lessened the depth of the ice to where the water's flowing," said Cochran.

Gale Hiner says he spent the night sandbagging a summer home he was hired to remodel. He says water did not get in the house yet, but others may return to their vacation homes and find significant damage. "I just got done building a house up just past Lowe's bridge up here and there's about twelve inches of water in the house now," said Hiner.

So we'll have to wait until that water recedes and get in there, tear out the drywall again and dry it out. Cochran says the forecast over the next few days is calling for the possibility of rain. He says if that happens, homeowners may have to worry about flooding, again. "It could be another real big problem for us, because we just don't have a place to hold it," said Cochran.

Cochran wants to remind people that anyone with flood damage should call FEMA and report it. Cochran says those people will be eligible for flood relief.

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Chronicle-Tribune

Emergency Medical Technician course at Ivy Tech Community College

Ivy Tech Community College's Marion campus will offer its first Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course beginning March 17.

The Basic EMT-B course will run March 17 through June 28 meeting from 5 to 9 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays and some Saturdays at the new campus, 261 S. Commerce Drive.

With increased demand for EMTs in the Emergency Medical Services, this course is considered to be a good first step for individuals interested in pursuing a career in the emergency services field.

Curriculum includes 140 hours of lecture and lab, 40 hours of ambulance practicum experience and 24 hours of emergency room clinical experience, and the state practical exam. Upon successful completion of the course, students will earn 7.5 hours of college credit and be eligible to take the Indiana Department of Homeland Security EMS written and practical exams.

Course packets are available at the Marion campus. Course fees are \$800.54 plus the cost of the books, a skills DVD, the state practical exam and the state written exam. Partial funding may be available through the local Work One office.

For additional information, contact Jennifer Buchanan or Jasmine Hamilton, 1-800-280-7157, ext. 2221.

Originally published February 15, 2008

[*Return to Marion*](#)



Flood waters receding on Lake Shafer

Associated Press - February 15, 2008 10:24 AM ET

MONTICELLO, Ind. (AP) - Water levels are dropping on Lake Shafer, where an ice jam caused flooding earlier in the week.

White County Emergency Management Agency director Gordon Cochran says the water level dropped about 2 feet between Wednesday afternoon and yesterday evening.

The 2 1/2 mile ice jam on Lake Shafer caused boats to be jolted from docks and boat houses to be flooded.

One man who owns a summer home on the lake about 20 miles north of Lafayette says many piers have been damaged by the ice.

Governor Daniels authorized the Army National Guard to help build protective sand walls and take other safety measures to protect homes and roads in the area.

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