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Local News

- **Ft. Wayne, IN**

Fireworks Caution Urged As New Year's Eve Approaches

INDIANAPOLIS (Indiana Governor's Office) – New Year's Eve is the second most common holiday for fireworks. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) Fire & Building Safety division urges Hoosier to play it safe when using fireworks to ring in the new year. "When handled by professionals, a fireworks show may look easy, but each year they cause injury, death and property damage because of misuse and accidents," said Jim Greeson, State Fire Marshal. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), in 2006 an estimated 9,200 people were injured by fireworks in the United States and had to be treated in a hospital emergency room. "Hoosiers need to remember that restrictions are in place regarding the use of fireworks, as well as the possible penalties for violators," Greeson added. "We want to stress the personal responsibility of each fireworks consumer. Obey our laws, follow directions for safe use and most importantly, apply common sense." Fireworks law provisions:

- Fireworks may be used only on the user's property; or on the property of someone who has consented to the use of fireworks; or at a special discharge location.
- Fireworks can be purchased only by persons 18 years of age or older and children may possess or use any kind of firework only when an adult is present.
- Penalties for violating the fireworks law can range from a Class A misdemeanor up to a Class C felony in the case of the reckless or intentional use of fireworks that results in a person's death.
- On Memorial Day, the 4th of July, Labor Day and New Year's Eve, fireworks may be discharged from 9 a.m. to midnight. Any other day of the year fireworks may be discharged from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Local laws may further affect fireworks use. U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission data shows that in 2006, approximately 1,300 people were injured by fireworks. In addition, approximately 1,000 people were injured by sparklers and 800 by bottle rockets. The IDHS Fire & Building Safety Division recommends Hoosiers check the fireworks they purchase to ensure they contain the following information:
- Class "C"
- Consumer Fireworks
- 1.4 g "If you find a package that you cannot read because it is in a foreign language, it says Class 'B' fireworks, or 1.3 g, we strongly encourage you to call the CPSC hotline (800-638-2772)," Greeson added. Facts (According NFPA statistics)
- Approximately 95-percent of all fireworks are produced in China.
- In 2006, 49% of emergency room fireworks-related injuries were to the extremities and 46% were to the head. 55% of the 2006 fireworks injuries were burns, while 30% were contusions and lacerations.

- One-third of the people injured by fireworks were under the age of 15.
- The risk of fireworks injury was two-and-a-half times as high for children ages 10-14 as for the general population.
- Sparklers, fountains, and novelties alone accounted for 28% of the emergency room fireworks injuries in 2006. If you choose to use fireworks, the IDHS Fire & Building Safety Division suggests following these important safety tips: Preparation
- Obey local laws, including ban of fireworks due to drought.
- Buy fireworks from a reliable, licensed dealer.
- Read and follow all directions.
- Do not alter any fireworks or attempt to make fireworks.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place away from the reach of children.
- Safety glasses are recommended for the person lighting or nearby the fireworks, such as a helper. Location and Conditions
- Keep a fire extinguisher, water supply, hose or bucket of water nearby.
- Use fireworks outdoors, never indoors.
- Use in a clear, open area.
- Keep spectators a safe distance from the show.
- Be cautious of lighting any fireworks during strong wind conditions and light fireworks with prevailing wind blowing away from the spectators. Fireworks Use
- Don’t allow children to handle, play with, or light any fireworks.
- Designate one person to ignite fireworks.
- Light only one firework item at a time.
- Never attempt to re-light, alter or fix any fireworks.
- Never smoke when handling fireworks.
- Drinking alcohol and using fireworks do not mix.
- Never aim, point or throw fireworks at another person. If you would like more information on fireworks or the IDHS Building Safety Division, please visit our website at: www.in.gov/dhs. (Indiana Governor's Office News Release)

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journalgazette.net
600 W. Main St. Fort Wayne, Ind. 46802

Flood warnings issued

The Journal Gazette

The National Weather Service in northern Indiana has issued flood warnings for:

- **Maumee River** in Fort Wayne, affecting Allen County in Indiana and Paulding County in Ohio.
- **Maumee River** near Defiance, Ohio, affecting Defiance and Henry counties.
- **St. Joseph River** in Fort Wayne above Newville, affecting Allen and DeKalb counties in Indiana and Defiance County in Ohio.
- **St. Marys River** near Decatur, affecting Adams and Allen counties in Indiana and Van Wert County in Ohio. The warning has been extended for the area near Decatur until Tuesday morning.

  At 11 a.m. Monday the river was 17.1 feet and falling; flood stage is 17.0 feet.

  Minor flooding is occurring, the weather service said. At 17.0 feet, agricultural flooding normally occurs along the river in northern, central and eastern Adams County, the weather service said.

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- **Tiffin River** near Stryker, Ohio, affecting Defiance, Fulton and Williams counties.

The weather service said recent heavy rainfall and melting snow and ice have led to minor river flooding.

Motorists are cautioned not to drive through flooded areas because the water might be too deep to get through.

It also advises adults to never allow children to play in or near flood waters.

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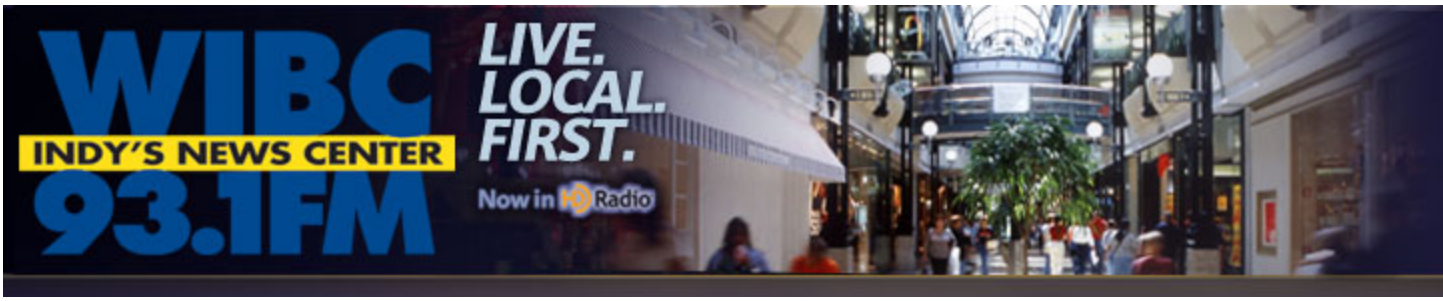

Tippecanoe, Wabash Rivers Under Flood Watch

By Joe Ulery
12/29/2008

Some Hoosiers who had to cope with ice and snow last week are now watching for minor flooding as it all melts.

National Weather Service Meteorologist Phil Gray says a Flood Watch is in effect for the Tippecanoe River in north-central Indiana.

Minor flooding is expected at the Oakdale Dam in White County.

The Wabash River could spill a bit out of its banks near Lafayette on downstream to where it dumps into the Ohio River.

Later this week, Hoosiers in southern Indiana may experience minor flooding.

Gray says it's not unusual to see December flooding in Indiana, and he says the flooding will be minor and will occur in flood-prone areas.

Indiana river levels are expected to return to normal later this week as Hoosiers enjoy a break from wet weather.

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The online edition of the Tribune-Star Terre Haute, Indiana
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Relive the moments.

A look back at 2008: May-June: Flood devastated Wabash Valley

The Tribune-Star

TERRE HAUTE December 27, 2008 08:31 pm

— The ground had already been saturated by a week's worth of water, and the 24 hours ending the morning of June 7 were just enough to put it over the top.
And into the basements, and into the streets, and into thousands of homes throughout the Wabash Valley, the waters of June 7 gave 2008 the Summer of Mud.
Renovations were ongoing into 2009 from floods which sent more than 2,000 evacuees into shelters throughout the Valley that day.
According to National Weather Service data, between 12 and 16 inches of rain fell in southeastern Vigo County in the 24 hours before 8 a.m. June 7.
Other parts of the county recorded between 6 and 8 inches of rain.
More than 16 inches of rain had been recorded in the week prior from Saturday, May 31 to Saturday, June 7.
Throughout the area, water levels were similar or higher. According to the National Weather Service, Brazil posted 7.5 inches of rain, Martinsville 8.8 inches and 10 inches fell in Spencer.
According to accounts from the Vigo County Emergency Management Agency, sandbagging began late June 6 on Oregon Church Road in the southern portion of the county and continued Saturday morning when a line of West Terre Haute residents built a wall blocking water from entering their town along U.S. 40.
On the other side of the wall, the village of Toad Hop was entirely submerged and mobile homes bobbed upside down in the waters.
According to EMA records, more than 3,000 households eventually applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for flood-related aid.
Brian Boyce can be reached at (812) 231-4253 or brian.boyce@tribstar.com.

May 2 — Scientist, stroke victim and Terre Haute native Jill Bolte Taylor, who works helping raise brain and stroke awareness, is on the list of Time magazine's World's 100 Most Influential People.
Firefighters stage the grand opening of Terre Haute's new Emergency Responder Training Academy on North Brown Avenue.
May 3 — Fifty teams of eight to 12 members each and about 75 survivors participate in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.
May 4 — About 1,500 graduates of Indiana State University and 200 of St. Mary-of-the-Woods College participate in commencement ceremonies.

May 6 — Political experts predict the presidential primary will result in a record turnout of voters in today's Indiana election.
May 7 —Michael Rader defeats incumbent Judge Barbara Brugnaux in the Democratic primary for judge of Vigo County Superior Court Division 5. Dan Kelly wins the GOP nomination for the Division 5 court seat; Nancy Allsup defeats former recorder Ray Watts in the Democrat primary for recorder.
Hillary Clinton leads Barack Obama in the Indiana presidential primary, with only Lake County votes not tabulated.
May 8 — Troy Fears, principal at Terre Haute South Vigo High School, announces he will leave his job to become executive director of United Way of the Wabash Valley.
May 10 —Patrick M. O'Leary Sr., longtime Terre Haute businessman and former eight-year director of the city's Alliance for Growth & Progress, dies at 71.
May 11 — Postal letter carriers collect more than 50,000 pounds of food locally to donate to the Catholic Charities Food Bank in the National Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.
May 12 — More than 7,000 Vigo County residents lose electrical power at some point during a storm that downed trees and power lines.
May 14 — Pfizer announces it will close its Terre Haute plant by mid-2009, cutting its final 140 jobs to go along with the 600 jobs cut from earlier this year.
NinYi Zhang, an assistant professor at St. Mary-of-the-Woods College, and other Chinese nationals in the Wabash Valley express their shock and grief over an earthquake in the Shangdong Province of China, where more than 12,000 people have died.
May 15 — Terre Haute Mayor Duke Bennett says the city is looking at about $5 million budget reductions over the next two years because of state-mandated property tax caps.
May 16 —Army Sgt. Kyle Childress, killed in Iraq in 2005, is honored by the American Legion in ceremonies inside Post 346. Childress' family is presented with a quilt.
May 18 — Terre Haute native and Indiana University student Ashley Lee, who nearly died from meningitis two years earlier, is working along with her mother to promote awareness of the disease, a bacterial infection.
May 20 — Terre Haute ranks second among the "least heart friendly" cities with a population of 560,000 and fewer in an American Heart Association-commissioned national study from which results were announced.
Brian Whisenhunt, manager of programs in an art museum at the University of Texas, is named the new executive director of Terre Haute's Sheldon Swope Art Museum.
May 21 — Indianapolis' Lucas Oil Stadium will host the Super Bowl in 2012, it is announced.
May 22 —Facade restorations at 423 Wabash Ave. earn Coffee Grounds owner Pete Wilson a Terre Haute Landmarks Inc. 2008 historic preservation award.
May 23 — Environmental Protection Agency inspects the property at Wabash Environmental Technology on South First Street, whose president Derrick Hagerman is serving prison time for falsifying documents related to discharging pollutants into the Wabash River.
Tommy Thornton, who recently resigned at teacher and head basketball coach at West Vigo High School, is charged with felonies of child seduction and attempted child seduction based upon allegations by a 17-year-old student.
May 25 — Terre Haute Mayor Duke Bennett asks the Terre Haute Housing Authority Board of Commissioners to consider resigning, citing concerns that include recent board operations and possible violations of Indiana's public access laws.
1960s pop-music icon Davy Jones plays to a large crowd in Fairbanks Park during the park's

Arts and Music festival.
Rose-Hulman graduates 412 in commencement ceremonies on its campus.
May 27 —Wabash Valley residents celebrate Memorial Day during ceremonies attended by hundreds in Highland Lawn and other cemeteries locally.
Indiana State University criminology professor Bob Huckabee is interviewed about his re-enlistment into the Army to serve in Iraq in the Retiree Recall Program.
May 28 — The Indiana Office of Public Access Counselor finds Terre Haute Housing Authority Board of Commissioners in violation of Indiana's public access laws because of closed meetings in April.
May 29 — An arsonist destroys the 30-foot-long covered bridge inside Deming Park.
McLean High School student Shane Johnson, 17, wins a pre-owned Pontiac Sunfire donated by Dorsett Mitsubishi for his attendance record. Johnson won a drawing among 14 Vigo County high-school students for the prize.
May 30 — Otter Creek Middle School seventh-grader Kennyi Aouad, spelling champion of Wabash Valley schools, misses on "monticule" in the preliminary rounds of the national spelling bee in Washington, D.C.
May 31 — Jeff Stewart, a former officer with Terre Haute Savings Bank, is unanimously approved by the Terre Haute Housing Authority board of directors as the Authority's new director.
June 1 — Shaun Smith, a student at Terre Haute North Vigo High School, wins the state championship meet in the 100 meter dash.
June 3 — Kevin L. Hampton of Terre Haute, convicted of a double murder a year ago in the deaths of Tanette Dickison and Cassie Harris, loses his appeal at the state level.
June 4 — Flash flood dumps 4 inches of rain in Wabash Valley.
June 5 — Storms cause the loss of electrical power to more than 14,000 residents of Vigo and surrounding counties.
CertainTeed, a fiber cement manufacturing facility employing 79 in the Vigo County Industrial Park, opens after two years of construction.
June 7 — More than 2,400 Special Olympians and their fans opened ceremonies for the 39th annual games at Indiana State University.
June 8 — About 7 inches of rain falls on the Wabash Valley in a 24-hour period, and the resulting worst flooding in 95 years ruined homes and businesses.
June 9 —Dozens of families are homeless and hundreds of others are faced with massive repairs because of the extreme flooding in certain sections of the Wabash Valley. About 1,000 home remain without power.
June 10 — Residents of flood-ravaged International Village Apartments, Oakridge Park Subdivision and Toad Hop are among those who tell their stories about the life-changing disaster.
June 11 — Wabash Valley emergency management agencies survey the damage caused by flooding, and the Red Cross brings food to those hardest hit.
The flood disaster, along with earlier rains, spells trouble for farmers in the Wabash Valley, who ponder their next move while standing water covers their fields.
June 12 — President Bush approves individual assistance programs for flood victims in some Indiana counties, including Vigo, making federal aid available for affected homeowners, renters and businesses.
June 13 — Sony announces it will create 85 new jobs in an expansion of its Blu-ray disc

manufacturing and distribution facility in Terre Haute.
The 20th annual Strawberry Festival attracts hundreds to First Congregational Church's fundraiser in downtown Terre Haute.
Forty-three high-school and middle-school students from Vigo County depart for Washington, D.C., to perform in the National Cathedral on Indiana State Day.
June 14 — The Federal Emergency Management Agency opens individual disaster relief services in the Booker T. Washington Community Center in Terre Haute.
June 15 — Many Wabash Valley residents say they have suffered the shock of discovering that homeowners insurance does not cover flooding.
The first Saturday morning downtown Farmer's Market runs in the parking lot across the street from Clabber Girl.
June 17 — The disaster relief group Southern Baptist Convention of Virginia has teamed with the American Red Cross to provide 7,500 meals for flood victims during its stay in the city.
June 18 — City officials talk about the extensive, expensive infrastructure repair work in the aftermath of the June 7 flooding, including damage to the banks of storm-water drainage streams.
A Terre Haute man, Steve Tryon, 18, makes local — and national — news after allegedly stealing $17 out of the hands of an 11-year-old girl running a lemonade stand at Deming and Center streets.
June 19 — The Lake at Fowler Park reopens after six days when its E. coli drops to safe levels.
June 20 — Wabash Valley contractors say they can't keep up with the demand for home repairs resulting from damaged homes from the June 7 flood disaster.
The first federal money for flood relief is disbursed locally by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
June 21 — Raj Bhuptani, a senior at Terre Haute South Vigo High School, uses his computer construction expertise to help create a technology room for the Hyte Community Center.
June 23 — Vigo County infrastructure flood repairs, including those to washed-out bridges, are estimated at $11 million, officials say.
Honey Creek Middle School finished fourth in the National Science Bowl in Golden, Colo.
June 24 — Red Cross flood relief figures show the organization has donated items of some sort to 639 families in the Wabash Valley to date.
June 25 — Indiana State University names Daniel J. Bradley as its 11th president pending board of trustees approval.
June 26 — Vigo County jury finds Ebony A. Burt guilty of murdering Michael Wyatt II of Marshall, Ill., on April 12.
John Paul II Catholic High School in Terre Haute has earned state accreditation.
June 28 — State and federal officials are trying to determine the environmental impact of a release of polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, from a wastewater lagoon at Pfizer Inc., when its dam failed during the June 7 flood.
June 29 — Red Cross closes its special flood-relief services at Washington Community Center and the Federal Emergency Management Agency winds down its services as disaster relief enters its final stages.

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Boonville Standard
NEWBURGH • CHANDLER REGISTER
GIBSON COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
Princeton Daily Clarion
DAILY REPUBLICAN REGISTER
Online from Mt. Carmel, Illinois, on the Wabash River

Beware of cold weather hazards

Posted: Monday, Dec 29, 2008 - 01:00:02 pm EST

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security recently issued the following information in preparation for expected severe weather.

Hazardous driving conditions due to snow and ice on highways and bridges lead to many traffic accidents, which is a leading cause of death during winter storms. Another primary cause of death is exposure.

Winter-Related Health Risks

- People, pets, and livestock are susceptible to frostbite and hypothermia during winter storms.
- Those at risk are primarily either engaged in outdoor activity (shoveling snow, digging out vehicles or assisting stranded motorists), or are the elderly or very young.
- Citizens' use of generators, kerosene heaters and alternative forms of heating may create other hazards such as fires and carbon monoxide poisoning.

Prepare a winter emergency kit for your vehicle

Supplies should include:

- at least two blankets or a sleeping bag;
- flashlight or battery-powered lantern and extra batteries;
- booster (jumper) cables;
- emergency flares;
- extra clothing, particularly boots, hats and mittens;
- a steel shovel and rope to use as a lifeline;
- bottled water or juice and nonperishable high-energy foods such as granola bars, raisins, nuts, peanut butter or cheese crackers;
- first-aid kit and necessary medications;
- sand or non-clumping cat litter for tire traction, if your vehicle gets stuck in snow or ice

- A cell phone and charger that can be adapted to vehicle use;
- ice scraper and snow brush; and
- tire repair kit and pump.

Winter Driving Tips

- If you can avoid driving or take public transportation, please do so.
- Pay attention to weather reports on the radio. Allow time in your schedule for bad weather and/or traffic delays.
- Keep spare window washer fluid in the trunk and make sure the wiper blades are in good working condition.
- Become familiar with your vehicle's winter weather operating characteristics. Front-wheel-drive vehicles generally handle better than rear-wheel vehicles on slippery roads because the weight of the engine is on the drive wheels, improving traction.
- Keep your windows clear of snow and ice. Remember to clean head, tail and brake lights.
- If you need to turn on your wipers, you need to turn on your headlights.
- Bridges become slick and icy before roads. Bridge temperatures can be five to six degrees colder than roadways, so drive with extreme caution during freezing temperatures.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full. Fill the tank before you park for lengthy periods. This will help prevent fuel line freeze-up.

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THE REPORTER-TIMES
MARTINSVILLE & MORGAN COUNTY, INDIANA
www.Reporter-Tim

Year marked by severe weather

Brian Culp bculp@reportert.com

December 30, 2008

It started raining on June 6. Before it was done, devastation had been poured out across much of Indiana.

And while the image of shopping centers under water and people wading with their belongings above their heads is burned into our consciousness, the historic flood wasn't the only unkindness doled out by mother nature in 2008.

"I would say there have been plenty of surprises this year," said Phil Gray, who is a hydrometeorogical technician with the National Weather Service in Indianapolis. "There were big floods in January and February and we tend to forget about it because it was overshadowed by the June floods."

On Jan. 29 strong winds and storms swept through Morgan County, ripping parts of the roof off of the courthouse and destroying the metal building of the Martinsville Dance Academy, 333 W. Washington St.

At the time, Terri Alexander, owner of the academy, said, "This was my worst nightmare."

Estimates for repairing the courthouse roof reached $500,000 and court proceedings were interrupted for several weeks while workers cleaned up the mess.

While the cleanup was extensive, no one was hurt in the storms, however.

But that wasn't the end to the nasty weather.

When it began raining on June 6, it's important to remember that the river was already at flood stage and a tornado had touched down in the county.

On June 3 in northeastern Morgan County, a storm caused major damage to trees and some homes in Lakewood Acres Subdivision in the Big Bend and Whiteland roads vicinity. Heavy winds tore through the area around 2:45 p.m., downing power lines, toppling trees and damaging structures, according to reports. The National Weather Service confirmed later that an F0 tornado had touched down in the area along with four others across the state that night.

On June 4 emergency workers were struggling to find enough barricades to close all the flooded roads in the county and the White River was at 16.2 feet, 4.2 feet above flood stage.

At the time Morgan County Emergency Management Director Jeff Neal was hopeful the river was close to cresting.

More was to come, however.

June 6 seemed normal at first. People got out of bed and got ready to go to ball games and to the Relay for Life, which had started the afternoon before. It wasn't long, though, before they realized something was different.

The torrential rain, which had started the evening before, had never stopped.

When all was said and done, storms dropped more than 10 inches of rain on Martinsville and Morgan County.

Residents were evacuated from their homes, many of which were completely destroyed. A whole section of homes on Southview Drive is likely to be largely abandoned.

It was days and in some cases weeks before residents could get back to see if they even had homes. The Red Cross opened a shelter, which housed residents until June 19 when it closed.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency kept an office open in Martinsville until August to help flood victims fill out paperwork and apply for aid.

While the weather seemed out of the ordinary, Gray said it can't be called unusual.

"It seems like it was a little unusual because of the massive and historic flooding of June," Gray said. "But there's nothing more normal than abnormal weather."

And as far as the tornado in January, that type of weather is not unheard of.

"It's not unprecedented to have a tornado in the fall or winter months," Gray said. "Tornadoes have occurred in every month of the year. Pepole don't expect it, but when it's unseasonably warm in the winter there is usually adverse weather that goes with it."

Gray didn't have any predictions of severe weather for the next couple of weeks, but he said unseasonable temperatures are likely to mark the next several months.

"Based on (Sunday's) model runs, it appears to be normal temperature and above normal precipiation for the next few weeks," Gray said.

While the weather has been cold in December, the long range winter forecast still holds for above normal temps for the entire winter, Gray said.

"That's still possible even though we've had a cold December," Gray said. He said temperatures were 1.8 degrees below normal through Sunday.

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RENSSELAER Republican
Celebrating 140 Years

-

County awaits presidential disaster declaration

By BRANDON HATFIELD, brandon@rensselaerrepublican.com

RENSSELAER — Jasper County has declared a state of emergency for the severe winter weather on December 18 and 19. Residents and public entities are asked to do their part to meet state and federal requirements before a presidential disaster declaration can be made and assistance can be disbursed.

If you are a Jasper County resident and have sustained damage to your personal property during the winter storm on Dec. 18 and 19 you should first take care of all emergency needs. Then contact your insurance company and report damages. Residents should document all expenses by saving receipts and take plenty of pictures of the damages caused by the severe weather. You must also fill out the Indiana Department of Homeland Security Ice/Snow Storm Damage Questionnaire located at your local town hall and the Jasper County Courthouse after Jan. 1.

After a presidential disaster declaration is made residents will then need to register for individual assistance through the FEMA teleregistration number at 1-800-621-3363.

If you are public entity that has accrued substantial costs during the recent storm contact Karen Wilson, Jasper County Emergency Management at 866-7344.

Jasper County has to have over $99,000 in public and individual damages to be eligible for assistance from FEMA. This is figured by multiplying FEMA's established rate of 3.11 by the population of the county.

"So, if you take roughly 30,000 people and multiply that by 3.11 that comes out to about 99,000 dollars," said Wilson. "The state as a whole has to meet $7.5 million to ask FEMA for help. That is the big key right there, if they don't come up with 7.5 million it doesn't happen."
Wilson said that obtaining assistance is a lengthy process.

"There is only us and Allen County that has filed the declarations, so that is a long way from 7.5 million," said Wilson. "This is so new, other counties may not have had

time to file a declaration and they may have no idea of their dollar amounts."

According to Wilson, exact dollar amounts of damages for Jasper County have not been completed at this time, but are estimated at well over the required amount.

Public vs. Individual Assistance

Public assistance is aid for public entities such as utility providers and highway departments that help in severe weather efforts. The categories of damage include debris removal, emergency protective measures, roads and bridges, water control facilities, buildings and equipment, public owned utilities, and parks and recreational facilities.

Individual assistance covers resident's uninsured losses caused by the disaster for categories of damage such as damage to homes (both owner-occupied and renters), personal property (basic appliances, essential clothing and furniture), medial, funeral, dental and transportation.

If you are public entity that has accrued substantial costs during the recent storm:

- A preliminary damage assessment sheet must be turned in along with all receipts for the claim before it can be submitted to the state.

Contact Karen Wilson, Jasper County Emergency Management at 866-7344 for more information.

What to do?

If you are a Jasper County resident and have sustained damage to your personal property during the winter storm on Dec. 18 and 19 you should:

- Take care of all emergency needs immediately.
- Contact your insurance company and report damages.
- Document all expenses by saving receipts.
- Take pictures of the damages caused by the severe weather.
- Fill out the Indiana Department of Homeland Security Ice/Snow Storm Damage Questionnaire located at your local town hall and the Jasper County Courthouse after Jan. 1.
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Back to Severe Weather

FOX28.COM WSJV • SOUTH BEND

Clean-up after Michiana storms

Posted: Dec 28, 2008 08:09 PM EST

An up and down week of different weather patterns caused quite a bit of trouble for drivers and road crews.

With icy roads Friday, warmer temperatures Saturday, and sunny skies Sunday...Michiana is due for a quiet weather week.

Most people are breathing a sigh of relief Sunday as water levels throughout Michiana are back down to normal and roads are clear. So that leaves residents to try and clean up what Mother Nature left behind.

"About every five years it seems like it stacks up like this," said Vic Lawson who's cleaning up after the storms.

That's the ice that's piled up from the St. Joseph River in Vic Lawson's backyard. He says varying weather patterns cut short his holiday weekend.

"Of course Indiana has weird weather but not like yesterday that was really strange when the wind came up and everything. I thought we might get a tornado," said Lawson.

And after this week's weird weather it could have happened.

"I actually had to go up and investigate a possible tornado touchdown last night and it turned out to just be straight winds," said Elkhart County Emergency Management Director Jen Tobey.

The snow, ice, warm temperatures, and extreme winds caught Elkhart County Emergency Management Director Jen Tobey and other emergency response crews by surprise.

"I talked to my highway director and he had four to five snow plows that had slid off the road so Friday was pretty scary," said Tobey.

That's why Tobey says Friday's ice storm had crews working overtime.

"At one point Friday Elkhart County dispatch had 49 calls up on the screen and only four unites that were able to respond," said Tobey.

Sheets of ice lining the Elkhart River are the last remnants of this week's weather. But residents say they're still dealing with the effects of all the snow and ice.

"I emptied 20 gallons, four five-gallon buckets," Lawson.

Buckets of ice that piled up on his roof. And with Saturday's warm temperatures it started

melting into Lawson's home.

"I try to keep ahead of it, but it was so weird you know. We got all the snow and everything and then of course that thawed and froze," said Lawson.

And after getting through completely different weather experiences in just one short weekend, Tobey hopes Mother Nature is done showing us who's boss.

"We can plan for the worst and hope for the best," said Tobey.

Reporter: Nadia Crow

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