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Sen. Boots is urging residents to call about damage

THE PAPER

Sen. Phil Boots is urging Hoosiers who sustained substantial property damage caused by severe weather - including wind and flooding from recent Aug. 4 storms - to report those losses online or by calling toll free 1-866-210-1925.

Reports by phone should be made between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. The toll-free number will be in operation through Tuesday, Aug. 18. When calling, provide a name, address, phone number, what caused the damage and type of property damage (such as structural and loss of personal property).

Visit www.in.gov/dhs and report damage online at the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's Web site.

This information will help local emergency management agencies and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security determine if federal assistance is needed in the state. After this first step is taken, the governor can declare a state of emergency and use the National Guard's military resources.

If the state determines the recovery is beyond its resources, a request for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to conduct a preliminary damage assessment can be made. FEMA personnel then join state and local representatives and conduct damage assessments and submit their findings to the governor's office.

If the state determines from those finding that a full recovery is beyond its capabilities, the governor can submit a written request to the President of the United States asking for federal aid under a major disaster or emergency declaration. FEMA's director also provides the President with an analysis of the disaster conditions and a recommendation on the needed course of action.

At that point, FEMA would either advise the governor of a denial of the request for federal aid or the President would declare a major disaster or emergency exists in the state.

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2nd wave of H1N1 flu expected to hit within 2 months

Becky Manley

The Journal Gazette

WABASH – The second wave of the H1N1 influenza could hit as early as late August or early September, and state officials still don't know when a vaccine for the strain will be available.

To update and prepare emergency and health responders for a possible outbreak and to plan for mass vaccinations, the Indiana State Department of Health and Indiana Department of Homeland Security hosted a meeting in Wabash on Tuesday attended by more than 200 officials from across northern Indiana.

It is the second meeting the state has had, State Health Commissioner Dr. Judy Monroe said before the meeting. The state is also continuing a public awareness campaign to encourage people to help stop the spread of any outbreak through good hygiene practices, such as frequent hand washing and by staying home when sick.

The most recent numbers released by the Indiana Department of Health indicate there have been 294 individuals in Indiana with a confirmed case of the pandemic flu strain. Four deaths in the Hoosier state have been associated with the flu strain since April.

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Emergency Agencies Respond After Severe Weather

By Liz Thomas/Network Indiana

8/4/2009

The Marion County Emergency Operations Center was activated Tuesday morning in response to severe weather.

Spokeswoman Debbi Fletcher says the county received about four inches of rain in a six-hour period.

The center responded to multiple requests for barricades and high water signs from police, fire and other emergency personnel.

Fletcher says IPL reported about 37,000 customers in the area without power Tuesday afternoon.

Indiana Department of Homeland Security spokesman John Erickson reports structural damage to homes, other buildings and cars from high winds and flooding. He says there are also downed power lines and continued power outages in areas hit hard by severe weather.

Although the southern portion of the state appears to have suffered the worst storm damage, much of central Indiana was also affected.

No injuries have been reported in Marion County as a result of the storms. Motorists are reminded to avoid roadways with high water.

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The damage is done in Clark County

BY RICHARD GOOTEE

Richard.Gootee@newsandtribune.com

August 07, 2009 01:25 pm

— Jeffersonville officials are working with the county to try to secure federal aid for cleanup in the wake of Tuesday's storms and flood, but are in need of the public's help, said a spokesman for Jeffersonville Mayor Tom Galligan.

"The better we can help [the state] understand and the more we can give them in terms of legitimate losses the better chance we have for that declaration," said Larry Thomas, Galligan's communications director.

Thomas urged those affected to report losses to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security before Aug. 18 to show there is a need for federal funds in Clark County. Though residents can't apply for funds yet, these reports will help determine whether the county should be eligible for federal money.

It is too early for damage estimates, Thomas said Thursday. While much of the city has already cleaned up, signs of Tuesday's weather are still apparent.

"For the most part, it's back to normal," he said. "We know it is going to take some time for people to dispose of particularly the large items that have been damaged, whether it's carpeting, furniture or appliances."

The city announced Wednesday it would haul away such items — if they were left on the curb — the same day of normal garbage pickup. Officials also set up a disposal for these items at the Jeffersonville Sanitation Department's lot at 11th and Mechanic streets between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. during the week.

Thomas said he was unaware of any discussions directly involving Galligan and state officials, but noted the city operating "by the book" by working closely with county Emergency Management Director Les Kavanaugh.

Because disaster areas are designated by county, not individual cities, the state will examine Clark County as a whole, not just Jeffersonville.

"There were significant property losses in other areas of the county that will be combined with Jeffersonville's information, giving the state a much better idea of what happened in Clark County on Tuesday," said Mindy Christian, the city's emergency management coordinator, in a release Wednesday.

Clarksville and Henryville sustained damage in Tuesday's storms as well.

A decision on federal aid for the county probably won't be made until Aug. 18, the deadline for damage reports, unless early reports show a desperate need, said John Erickson, a spokesman for the Department of Homeland Security. He added it is too early to gauge Clark County's chances

of receiving federal aid.

He said victims should start cleaning up but take photos of the damage and keep receipts of items bought because of damage for possible claims later on. Victims also should check to see if their insurance policy will cover any damage.

“A lot of them don’t cover flooding, but that really needs to be the first thing that [victims] look into because any assistance that we can provide is going to be a supplement to their insurance,” Erickson said.

REPORT DAMAGE

- Residents who suffered property damage from Tuesday’s weather should report their losses to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Reports can be made by calling 866-210-1925 on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. or online at www.in.gov/dhs. Reports will be taken until Aug. 18.

These reports are not applications for assistance but will help the state decide if it will pursue federal aid.

CLOSING

- The boat ramp at the Falls of the Ohio is closed because of high river levels until Tuesday.

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Photos



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Wednesday, August 05, 2009

Man missing in river

Heavy storms hit Indiana, Kentucky

By Staff, Wire Services

Wednesday, August 05, 2009



Water surrounded several trailers on Moody Park Lane Tuesday as heavy rain caused flash flooding. Residents of the area waded through the water, dragging trash cans that had floated away while firemen blocked the area off to cars. Neighbors on Walnut Street watched from their homes as the water spread down the sidewalk, some trying to decide if they should leave in case the water rose any higher. (Photo by Brandi Baldiwn)



RESCUE EFFORT: Firefighters extended a ladder over moving water to rescue a woman stranded at her place of work. Firefighter Aaron Auxier of Madison Fire Company No. 4, operated the ladder to help Angela Powell, manager of Darrell's Tire Service, and her cat escape from flooding on Walnut Street. Portions of Aulenbach Avenue, East Street and Moody Park Lane were also closed due to flooding on the northeast side of downtown Madison. (Staff photo by Brian Jones)

Street. Hanging Rock Hill remained closed this morning.

The Kentucky Department of Highways announced that U.S. 421 in Trimble County will be reduced to one lane on Milton Hill to allow for slide repairs. The lane closures are scheduled for Thursday through Aug. 13, from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. each day.

The work will continue on weekends as well. Traffic will be flagged through the work zone.

The Madison Township Fire Department opened its doors as a shelter to anyone harmed by the flooding.

According to Assistant Fire Chief Robert Black, the department hadn't received any calls for assistance as of late Tuesday afternoon. Tuesday's storms caused many problems in the Indiana-Kentucky region.

Flash floods closed highways and led to some evacuations. Madison escaped most of the damage with minor flash flooding caused by 2.08 inches of rain. By early evening, water in most of the flooded areas had receded.

Police and state conservation officers rescued several people, mostly stranded motorists, caught in high waters in Clark, Brown and Jackson counties, said John Erickson, a spokesman for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

Franklin County authorities evacuated homes in the town of Laurel, about 50 miles southeast of Indianapolis.

A child was injured when a tree fell onto a house in Noblesville, about 15 miles north of Indianapolis, police said.

Utilities said power outages affected more than 100,000 homes and businesses at one point, including more than 38,000 in the Indianapolis area.

A Madison man was missing this morning after being pulled under the water while attempting to retrieve a pole he had dropped.

Phillip Geyman, 61, was assisting others in moving debris away from a private boat dock at the 600 block of West Vaughn Drive on Tuesday night when he lost control of the pole he was using, according to the Madison Police Department.

The pole drifted 50 feet down stream before becoming lodged six feet from the shore. Geyman entered the water to retrieve the pole before going under, resurfacing once before going under again, police said.

The river stage this morning was 432.2 feet, 5.2 feet higher than Tuesday

Officers from the Indiana Conservation Department and the Milton, Ky. Water Rescue Team assisted in the search.

According to the Indiana Department of transportation the only major road that was closed during Tuesday's flash flooding was the Hanging Rock Hill portion of State Road 7 and Cragmont

The National Weather Service said 4 inches of rainfall left water as deep as 4 feet on some Franklin County roads.

Charlestown Police Chief Steve Dean said the flooding was the worst in recent memory. "For as much rain as we've had, our sewers are just overwhelmed," Dean said.

Indiana State Police reported that high water closed several major highways, including Interstate 74 westbound at the Franklin-Ripley county line near Batesville and eastbound lanes of I-74 at nearby Greensburg.

Authorities closed I-65 about 30 miles south of Indianapolis after power lines fell across all four lanes of traffic. Another major artery, U.S. 31, was closed in northern Clark County.

In Kentucky, flash flooding swamped Louisville with torrents of water that shut down universities, submerged part of the Churchill Downs track and stranded motorists.

National Guard flood rescue teams were dispatched to Louisville after the morning rush hour turned into a soggy adventure as parts of the city were inundated with up to a half-foot of rainfall within a couple of hours. On one main artery, floodwaters gushed over guardrails on northbound Interstate 65, causing a massive traffic jam.

City officials reported receiving thousands of 911 calls but said there had been no reports of significant injuries.

In hard-hit Louisville, the Coast Guard deployed a disaster assistance response team from Cincinnati. The Kentucky National Guard was dispatching two swift water teams.

At famous Churchill Downs, some thoroughbreds were moved to a nearby facility after water built up in a couple of barns after the downpour, said track spokesman John Asher. Vehicles parked near Churchill were submerged or partially submerged. Churchill is between live racing meets.

"We've got a lot of the racetrack under water," he said.

The storm shut down the University of Louisville, where 20 buildings had flooding on the main campus, including nine with significant damage, said university President James Ramsey. Power was cut off at eight university buildings, down from a peak of 12.

Dozens of university of employees were evacuated from flooded buildings.

"This is the worst flooding that the University of Louisville campus has seen in anybody's memory," said university spokesman Mark Hebert.

Craig Buthod, director of Louisville's public library system, said 3 1/2 feet of water inundated the main library's lower level. He said tens of thousands of books were lost and the library was forced to close. He said staff vehicles and bookmobiles were flooded. Books, boxes and debris bobbed in several feet of floodwater in the library's underground parking garage. He estimated damage at over \$1 million, including new computers for a branch that had not yet opened.

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August 6, 2009

Franklin Co. seeks disaster ruling

More than 6 inches of rain fell in area Tuesday

*BY PAM THARP
CORRESPONDENT*

BROOKVILLE, Ind. -- Ind. State Sen. Jean Leising asked Gov. Mitch Daniels on Wednesday to declare Franklin County a disaster area and seek emergency federal funds for government, business and homeowner relief.

More than 6 inches of rain fell Tuesday in Franklin County, resulting in the destruction of bridges and culverts, Leising said in a press release.

Leising was joined in seeking the disaster declaration by the Franklin County commissioners.

Many county roads are closed and homes and businesses have water damage in the Laurel and Metamora area.

Decatur and Rush counties also suffered flooding and damage from Tuesday's storm, Leising said. Rush Memorial Hospital's lower level was flooded until the fire department pumped out the water, she said.

Leising is also asking residents who suffered damage caused by the severe weather, including wind and flooding, to report the damage online or by calling toll-free (866) 210-1925. The number will be staffed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Aug. 18.

Damage reports may be made online via the Indiana Department of Homeland Security at www.in.gov/dhs.

The information gathered will be used to help local emergency management agencies and the Department of Homeland Security determine if federal assistance can be pursued.

"It is important to remember this call is not an application for any assistance program," Leising said. "We will let residents know how and where to apply if the area is declared eligible for federal disaster assistance."

Rain started falling in Indiana early Tuesday and continued most of the day. A total of 2.04 inches of rain was measured in Richmond. The precipitation canceled a wooden bat league baseball doubleheader, among other events.

In Eaton, Ohio, rain washed away a concert by rock group Foreigner at the Preble County Fair.

Parts of Indiana were hit even harder. The storm cut power to more than 100,000 Indiana homes and businesses at one point, but by mid-afternoon Wednesday crews had returned power to all but about 15,000 customers.

Hard hit was south-central Indiana's Brown County, where the storms cut power to 80 percent of the county's residents. As of mid-afternoon Wednesday, about half of the 14,000 residents in the heavily wooded, hilly county still had no power.

Weather service meteorologist Dave Tucek said the storms came in two waves -- the second of which was an unusually large squall line packed with severe thunderstorms.

Additional Facts

REPORT DAMAGES

- Residents and businesses are asked to report wind damage or flooding at (866) 210-1925 or online at www.in.gov/dhs. Reports should be made by Aug. 18. The phone line is staffed 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

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August 5, 2009

State of emergency called off in Floyd County

By *Chris Quay*
cquay@courier-journal.com

Communities in Southern Indiana began the daunting task Wednesday of cleaning up the mess left behind by Tuesday's deluge and flooding.

As street crews in Clarksville, Jeffersonville and New Albany cleared roadways and picked up debris, a state of emergency declared in Floyd County because of high water was lifted.

New Albany was one of the hardest hit areas in southern Indiana receiving more than five inches of rain in less than two hours, according to Mayor Doug England.

"We have a lot of debris and a lot of streets to sweep and clean up," he said. Several streets in east New Albany, such as Reno Avenue and Thomas Street off of Spring Street suffered damage that will need to be repaired, England said.

He said representatives from Gov. Mitch Daniels' office have begun to inspect the damage throughout the region, which England hopes leads to Floyd and other counties being labeled as official disaster areas that qualify for federal aid.

New Albany city officials are suggesting residents who have debris to be removed seek curbside pickup by calling the street department at (812) 948-5352. And the Indiana Department of Homeland Security is asking residents who suffered wind or flood damage to call (866) 210-1925.

A portion of Blackiston Mill Road between Gutford Lane and Parkwood Drive will be shut down for at least a month because of flood damage, said Greg Isgrigg, Clarksville's town council president.

A metal guardrail was pulled away and a bed of large rocks that lined the side road was washed away by flood waters, exposing a gaping hole that could cause part of the street to collapse.

"That water was flowing over the road like Niagara Falls," Isgrigg said. He said Clarksville will make a request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for money to fix the road, but no timetable on making the request has been set.

Some water rescues were performed in northern Clark County, but officials reported no injuries throughout southern Indiana.

Street crews in Jeffersonville were picking up damaged furniture, carpets and appliances Wednesday, David Hosea, street commissioner, said.

"We will be picking this stuff up because we know people have had a hard time. We're going to clean

up as fast as possible," he said.

Residents in Jeffersonville can also drop off debris and flood-damaged items at 11th and Mechanic streets from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, Hosea said. .

The Clark County Chapter of the American Red Cross opened a shelter for displaced residents at the First Southern Baptist Church on Ettels Lane in Clarksville Tuesday, but only one person stayed overnight at the church. The shelter was closed at noon Wednesday, said Kate Merchant, a Red Cross spokeswoman.

"The water came, the water went and now everybody is just cleaning up," she said.

Reporter Chris Quay can be reached at (502) 582-4241.

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August 4, 2009

Carmel: Thousands without power

By Melanie D. Hayes

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The severe storm that hammered Central Indiana this afternoon has left thousands of people without power in Hamilton County, and generated a confirmed lightning strike in Carmel.

Lightning struck the Tom Wood Subaru dealership located near 96th and Keystone Parkway, said Carmel Fire Department fire marshal Bruce Knott.

"There is evidence that it hit, but lightning doesn't always cause a fire," he said.

The fire department received calls regarding other possible strikes, but none could be traced to lightning, he said.

Several alarms went off in the city, which is typical during a storm, but none panned out to be fires, Knott said. Westfield and Fishers fire departments helped checking alarms and reports in Carmel, Knott said.

Knott and Carmel police and fire dispatch said they had not received reports of car accidents.

Knott said the fire department was also working on a utility line that fell in the backyard of a residence along east 98th Street.

Dispatchers reported that all stoplights at Hazel Dell Parkway and 146th Street went out of order around 1 p.m.

Around 2 p.m., Duke Energy reported more than 8,000 customers without power in Hamilton County. As of 3:20 p.m., that number had dropped to less than 5,400.

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Hoosiers clean up after Tuesday storms



Power outages are still causing problems at some intersections.

[Rich Van Wyk](#)/Eyewitness News

Morgan and Brown Counties - The National Weather Service is trying to figure out if a tornado or straight line winds caused the damage when the storms rolled through Central Indiana.

The damage was devastating for residents in Brown and Morgan Counties where thousands of people are still without power or even clean water.



The full extent of the storm's damage is only now being realized. Morgan County counts a dozen homes heavily damaged or destroyed. Half of them are in the small community of Eminence where entire roofs were ripped from homes. Families endured a day of picking through the mess, sorting trash from treasures, one armload at a time.



Powerful winds flipped a mobile home from the ground, flattening it. Authorities say no one was hurt.

High winds took the roof off a home in Eminence, Morgan County.

In neighboring Brown County "about everywhere we go, it is a mess like this," said Joe Meyers, power company worker.



Power company work crews struggled through the night and all day trying to restore electricity.

"Right now 80 percent of the county is without power," said Rick Wobhlecke, Brown County Emergency Management director.

The majority of the county is without phone service as well.



Nashville, usually teeming with tourists, at times looked deserted. While authorities looked for ways to avert a crisis, Brown County was running out of water.

"No power to run the pumps. No pumps to pump water, towers run dry," said Wobhlecke.

Residents took quick advantage of free drinking water, available at several fire stations.

Although power was restored to Nashville and several other areas by mid-afternoon, power companies say many residents will be without cold refrigerators, lights, and hot water until Friday.

The National Weather Service will try to determine whether this is the result of tornados or powerful winds. It's no doubt of of interest but little consequence to those who have lost so

much.

Power outages

IPL is reporting approximately 2,828 customers without power as of 4:20 pm. Most of the problems are on the city's east side. ([Check IPL outages here.](#)) At the height of the outages, 50,000 IPL customers were without power.

Duke Energy reports 4,000 customers without electricity. ([Check Duke outages here.](#))

More than half of the outages are in Monroe and Brown Counties. About 50 percent of Brown County residents are still without power, and the county's water towers are empty.

Brown County Emergency Management has declared a level two emergency. Traffic is restricted to emergency vehicles and essential travel only.

Brown County also has a critical water shortage. Fire stations are giving out bottled water but officials say they're giving it out faster than they're receiving shipments, although more is on the way.

Road closures in Seymour

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) announces rising waters have caused the closure of state roads and interstate highways in the Seymour District. The closures will remain in effect until waters recede. The following sections of roadway have been closed:

Decatur County/Rush County Line
SR-3

Jackson County
SR 235 in Medora

Ripley County
SR 62 in Friendship

Scott County
SR 256 between I-65 and SR-39

When encountering a flooded roadway, INDOT urges drivers to turn around and not drive through standing water. According to the National Weather Service, most flooding deaths occur in automobiles. Six inches of standing water is enough to cause passenger cars to stall and a foot of water will float many vehicles.

Marion County

In Indianapolis, crews from the Department of Public Works (DPW) are busy cleaning up. DPW took over 500 storm-related calls. About 200 to 300 trees were reported down with about 60 locations blocking right of way areas and about 100 taking down power lines. Crews worked into the evening Tuesday and continue to work Wednesday clearing roadways.

DPW placed high water signs and barricades in an effort to ensure public safety at about 50 locations throughout the city. Water has started to recede in many of these areas.

As of 6:00 am this morning, 3 intersections have been reported still without power resulting in

inoperable traffic signals. Commuters should treat these areas as a 4-way stop.

As DPW continues to check river gauges, it appears the rivers are on the downward side as most of the storm affected the southern portion of the county. There are no reports of flood waters headed from the north at this time.

Rainfall totals from Tuesday:

Rainfall south of I-70 totaled 3 to 4".

Indianapolis: 3.81"

Shelbyville: 2.86"

Bloomington: 1.85"

Lafayette: .47"

Terre Haute: .41"

Muncie: .10"

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chicagotribune.com

Ind. asks storm victims to report property damage

Associated Press

3:02 AM CDT, August 7, 2009

INDIANAPOLIS

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security wants state residents whose property was damaged during storms this week to report it to help officials determine whether the state qualifies for federal aid.

Heavy rains and high winds tore through the southern half of the state on Tuesday, causing flash flooding and damage to homes and other structures.

Indiana Homeland Security officials want people with structural damage to homes or loss of personal property to call the toll-free number 866-210-1925 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern time through Tuesday, Aug. 18. The Department is also taking reports online at www.in.gov/dhs.

Emergency management officials will use the information to determine whether to pursue federal aid.

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August 6, 2009

Strong storms deliver punch to Johnson County

Drivers have a hard time negotiating flooded roads; lightning strikes touch off fires at homes throughout county

*By Jason Thomas
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Heavy rains and lightning hit Greenwood hard when storms swept through Central Indiana on Tuesday.

Police and fire officials kept busy for most of the day, rescuing motorists from high water throughout the city. Indiana State Police also reported that one driver suffered injuries when his car hydroplaned while southbound on I-65.

Johnson County also had a major problem from the storm's first wave when I-65 closed south of Franklin at the 87-mile marker because of power lines that fell across all four lanes.

Flooding closed several roads Tuesday, according to Norm Gabehart, the city's director of operations.

Officials measured 4.2 inches of rain in Greenwood, creating circumstances that reminded some people of the flooding in June 2008.

Hard-hit areas included County Line Road, Main Street, the intersection of Stop 18 and U.S. 31, Olive Branch Road and Broadway Street near downtown Greenwood.

State Police reported a single-vehicle crash at about 1:19 p.m. Tuesday on I-65 near the 99-mile marker that sent the driver to the hospital.

In a news release, police said a preliminary investigation showed that Tracy W. Kory, 35, Winchester, was driving his silver 2003 Chevy Impala in the left lane of southbound I-65 when it came in contact with standing water, causing the car to hydroplane.

Kory's vehicle swerved several times before turning broadside, rolling over onto the passenger's side and coming to a rest against the guardrail on the west side of the road, police said. Kory, who was wearing his seat belt, received minor injuries and was treated at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis.

Lightning strikes caused fires at several homes throughout Johnson County, including ones in Greenwood and New Whiteland, said Forrest "Tug" Sutton, Johnson County's emergency management director.

Officials established an emergency operations center at about 12:30 p.m. at Greenwood Fire Department headquarters on Main Street.

"Just a heck of a lot of water," Sutton said about the situation in Greenwood. "We're going to have to watch the streams. They're out of their banks."

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August 5, 2009

Storm hangover: Fog, limbs, power outages

By Kevin O'Neal
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2:55 p.m. update: 6,800 Duke, 9,200 IPL customers await power

Electric utilities continue to make progress in restoring power to customers who lost service during Tuesday's storms.

That pace may slow because repair crews are mostly working on individual outages now that many major problems have been solved. At the peak of the double-barreled storm, more than 90,000 Indiana customers of Duke Energy and Indianapolis Power and Light were without power.

This afternoon, about 6,800 Duke customers and 9,200 IPL customers were waiting for power to be restored. IPL said they were working on 600 power outages, and the largest one involved 210 customers.

Duke Energy customers can call (800) 343-3525 for help with outages, and Indianapolis Power and Light customers can call (317) 261-8222.

EARLIER: Metro area littered with trees, powerlines, lots of water

Fog, shredded tree limbs, fallen power lines and wet basements are the legacy of yesterday's big storm.

Residents today still are trying to come to grips with the damage caused by a double wave of Tuesday thunderstorms. The area still is dotted by trees and limbs knocked down by rain and winds that were measured at 60 miles per hour in many areas.

LOCAL WEATHER:

<http://indystar.weather.gannettonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/section?Category=WEATHER01&City=Indianapolis&State=IN>>Check the latest forecast, weather radar

This morning, an insurance adjuster and repair crews were looking at the Far Eastside home of Delbert and Joyce Wright, wondering how a tree missed their house while smashing two nearby trucks.

"It's a very big tree, it spans the width of a house," said Joyce Wright, 50. "It landed on the Geo Tracker and it totally crumbled the truck. It probably missed the house by four feet. We think it slightly tapped the roof and then hit the truck."

Delbert Wright, an Indianapolis Fire Department lieutenant, had just gotten off a long shift battling a blaze and wanted to rest, but he first needed to take his son and his car to a repair shop. Both arrived home when the storm hit, and the wife had to wake her napping husband to let him know the tree had toppled.

That was one of the 200-300 trees that fell and were reported to the Department of Public Works in Indianapolis. Around 100 of those trees took power lines with them and another 60 trees interfered with traffic.

On the Westside, Jane Ewell was frustrated to learn that a house she rents on Mickley Avenue was flooded again.

“When I went over there it was just like a river running down on my property,” said Ewell, 80, about the property that is in a low-lying area next to a creek. “The water was so high up in the driveway that the water went over the car's wheels.”

The DPW worked 50 instances of water that was high enough to block traffic at the height of the storm and its aftermath.

The wind, rain and lightning contributed to widespread power outages. Duke Energy reports 10,000 customers still were without electricity in its large portion of Indiana, while Indianapolis Power and Light had 13,000 customers without electricity. The Indianapolis utility is borrowing repair crews from other areas to assist with the repairs. Among the places without power was the Northeast District roll call station of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, which didn't have power restored until mid-morning on Wednesday.

Despite the rain and the many instances of flooded roads in the area, there's no widespread flooding problem on the day after the storm. The National Weather Service reports the highest water is to the southeast of Indianapolis, where Buck Creek in Acton and the Big Blue River in the Shelbyville area are near flood stage.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security is starting to accept damage reports, which will be compiled to help Indiana government assess the storm and decide if they will request federal assistance. Reports can be made to (866) 210-1925 or online at <http://www.in.gov/dhs>.

There's no more rain in the forecast until Friday night and high temperatures will be around 80 for the next few days. However, seasonal heat will return for the weekend, just in time for the opening of the Indiana state Fair, with high temperatures around 90.

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Southern Indiana victims of severe weather urged to report damage

STAFF REPORTS

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August 06, 2009 01:38 pm

— Hoosiers who sustained damage caused by severe weather — including wind and flooding beginning Tuesday — are urged to report damage online or by calling a toll free number. The number — 866-210-1925 — will be staffed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Aug. 18, a press release says.

Damage reports also may be made online via the Indiana Department of Homeland Security Web site at www.in.gov/dhs.

Callers will be asked to provide their name, address, phone number, damage to property and type of damage the property sustained. Losses can include structural damage to homes and loss of personal property.

“We really need people to contact the Indiana Department of Homeland Security by Aug. 18 if they suffered property losses because of Tuesday’s rains and flooding,” said Mindy Christian, Jeffersonville’s emergency management coordinator, in a press release. “The state will look at the county as a whole. There were significant property losses in other areas of the county that will be combined with Jeffersonville’s information, giving the state a much better idea of what happened in Clark County on Tuesday.”

Individuals calling will not be in conversation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Information will be used to help local emergency management agencies and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security preliminarily assess damage to determine if federal assistance can be pursued.

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The damage is done in Clark County

BY RICHARD GOOTEE

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August 07, 2009 01:25 pm

— Jeffersonville officials are working with the county to try to secure federal aid for cleanup in the wake of Tuesday's storms and flood, but are in need of the public's help, said a spokesman for Jeffersonville Mayor Tom Galligan.

"The better we can help [the state] understand and the more we can give them in terms of legitimate losses the better chance we have for that declaration," said Larry Thomas, Galligan's communications director.

Thomas urged those affected to report losses to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security before Aug. 18 to show there is a need for federal funds in Clark County. Though residents can't apply for funds yet, these reports will help determine whether the county should be eligible for federal money.

It is too early for damage estimates, Thomas said Thursday. While much of the city has already cleaned up, signs of Tuesday's weather are still apparent.

"For the most part, it's back to normal," he said. "We know it is going to take some time for people to dispose of particularly the large items that have been damaged, whether it's carpeting, furniture or appliances."

The city announced Wednesday it would haul away such items — if they were left on the curb — the same day of normal garbage pickup. Officials also set up a disposal for these items at the Jeffersonville Sanitation Department's lot at 11th and Mechanic streets between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. during the week.

Thomas said he was unaware of any discussions directly involving Galligan and state officials, but noted the city operating "by the book" by working closely with county Emergency Management Director Les Kavanaugh.

Because disaster areas are designated by county, not individual cities, the state will examine Clark County as a whole, not just Jeffersonville.

"There were significant property losses in other areas of the county that will be combined with Jeffersonville's information, giving the state a much better idea of what happened in Clark County on Tuesday," said Mindy Christian, the city's emergency management coordinator, in a release Wednesday.

Clarksville and Henryville sustained damage in Tuesday's storms as well.

A decision on federal aid for the county probably won't be made until Aug. 18, the deadline for damage reports, unless early reports show a desperate need, said John Erickson, a spokesman for the Department of Homeland Security. He added it is too early to gauge Clark County's chances of receiving federal aid.

He said victims should start cleaning up but take photos of the damage and keep receipts of items bought because of damage for possible claims later on. Victims also should check to see if their insurance policy will cover any damage.

“A lot of them don’t cover flooding, but that really needs to be the first thing that [victims] look into because any assistance that we can provide is going to be a supplement to their insurance,” Erickson said.

REPORT DAMAGE

- Residents who suffered property damage from Tuesday’s weather should report their losses to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Reports can be made by calling 866-210-1925 on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. or online at www.in.gov/dhs. Reports will be taken until Aug. 18.

These reports are not applications for assistance but will help the state decide if it will pursue federal aid.

CLOSING

- The boat ramp at the Falls of the Ohio is closed because of high river levels until Tuesday.

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Photos



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Crews work to restore power after Indiana storms

The Associated Press

August 05, 2009 07:51 pm

— NASHVILLE, Ind. (AP) — Crews worked Wednesday to restore power to thousands of customers left in the dark by an unusually powerful storms that swept through a large swath of Indiana a day earlier.

About 15,000 customers were still without power Wednesday afternoon, after Tuesday's thunderstorms unleashed wind gusts of up to 70 mph and cut electricity to more than 100,000 homes and businesses.

About half of the 14,000 customers in south-central Indiana's Brown County, the state's hardest hit area, were still without power Wednesday, county emergency management director Rick Woehlecke said. Utility crews from around the state were helping in the efforts, but some residents might not get their power back until Friday.

Nashville, a rustic tourist town near Brown County State Park about 50 miles south of Indianapolis, endured widespread tree damage, Woehlecke said.

"It went through about one-third of our county — it went clear across. There's a path stretching from the northwest to the southeast," he said.

Brown County residents were told to boil their water, and the county was facing a critical water shortage because pumping stations lacked power and couldn't keep water towers resupplied. Residents could get free jugs of drinking water at three fire stations in the hardest hit part of the county.

The only reported injury in Tuesday's storm was a child who was injured when a tree fell onto a house in Noblesville, about 15 miles north of Indianapolis, police said.

The storms dropped up to 7 inches of rain in a rural area of Jackson and Brown counties, the National Weather Service said, but did not produce widespread flooding.

Weather service meteorologist Dave Tucek said the storms came in two waves — the second of which was an unusually large squall line packed with severe thunderstorms.

Winds in excess of 60 mph and up to 70 mph were reported from Lafayette in the state's northwester quadrant all the way to southeastern Indiana, he said.

"It's uncommon for a squall line to cover such a wide area, although we usually get something like this once every summer," Tucek said. "We had damage reports from Lafayette to the Ohio River."

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[Cleaning up after the storm](#)

Updated: Wednesday, 05 Aug 2009, 7:06 PM EDT

Published : Wednesday, 05 Aug 2009, 3:58 PM EDT

- Pamela Gardner

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (WTHI) - Storms created headaches for people all over Indiana and Illinois Tuesday afternoon and the sound of chainsaws cutting limbs were heard all across the Wabash Valley.

People surveyed the damage and swapped stories of where they were when the storm hit.

"I got up at 11:30 and it woke me up because I heard this big thud. I just laid there for a second. And I realized there was a big storm going on," Terre Haute resident Morgan Amlett said.

A storm that brought heavy rain, hail and wind damage.

"So I went in my living room there was this hug tree down and I just called my dad at that time," Amlett said.

"I got a phone call from my daughter in a complete panic. She basically told me, "Dad I'm freaking out you know there's a storm coming," Terre Haute resident Hugh Amlett said.

Meteorologists were tracking this storm which moved across Illinois into Indiana. As it reached the state line, it took on a "bow" shape. We call this a bow echo. The bow indicated that straight line winds would be the primary threat.

The winds took out a semi, pieces of roofs and mostly, large trees and limbs. Leaving a gas leak for one house, and a straight path of damage following the direction of the wind.

"Yea there's a straight line all the way through the backyard, as you can see there are trees down," Amlett said.

Even during the clean up of the trees and gas line repairs, Amlett said it could have been worse.

"We got lucky. It missed everything and my daughter is OK. That's the biggest thing. No body got hurt," Amlett said.

The storm still left folks with a big clean up project that could last a few days.

If you had any damage from yesterday's storms, you are urged to contact the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

Their Web site is: www.in.gov/dhs . Their toll free number is: 866-210-1925. They will assess the severity of damage and possibly provide federal assistance.

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Fire destroys downtown businesses in S. Ind. city

Associated Press

6:51 AM CDT, August 4, 2009

SEYMOUR, Indiana

Fire destroyed downtown buildings housing two businesses and damaged others in the southern Indiana city of Seymour.

The fire was reported about 10:30 p.m. Monday in a building with a children's clothing store and spread throughout the three-story structure, including the roof. Battalion Chief Art Robertson says a neighboring antiques store also was destroyed and other nearby buildings had roof damage.

No injuries were reported, although firefighters worked into early Tuesday to extinguish the blaze.

Fire Chief Fred Hines said he would ask the state fire marshal's office to help investigate what caused the fire.

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Officials in SE Ind.'s Franklin Co. evacuate homes

Associated Press

2:32 PM CDT, August 4, 2009

BROOKVILLE, Indiana

Authorities in southeastern Indiana's Franklin County have evacuated some homes in the town of Laurel after 4 inches of rainfall inundated low-lying areas.

Sheriff's dispatcher Amy Callahan says the number of evacuations Tuesday wasn't immediately clear.

The National Weather Service says up to 4 feet of water had accumulated on some roadways in Franklin County.

Indiana State Police say the high water closed Interstate 74 westbound at the Franklin-Ripley county line near Batesville and eastbound lanes of I-74 at nearby Greensburg.

Spokesman John Erickson of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security says isolated evacuations are occurring in several counties.

Laurel is about 50 miles southeast of Indianapolis.

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Sheriff Wants Drivers Who Go Through High Water Fined

Gorbett Says Some Intentionally Cross Flooded Roads

POSTED: 11:31 am EDT August 7, 2009

COLUMBUS, Ind. -- In the wake of several high water rescues when storms pounded the southern half of Indiana earlier this week, the Bartholomew County sheriff wants to get tough on motorists.

Sheriff Mark Gorbett said some people intentionally drive through high water. He called for an ordinance that would fine a motorist who ignores high water signs and attempts to cross a flooded road.

Gorbett said the practice not only risks motorists' lives, but also puts emergency responders in danger.

"We had a flood a year ago, several rescues recently, and it may make them think twice next time ... if there's a steep fine for passing a high water sign in the county," Gorbett said.

Bartholomew County commissioners are studying the idea.

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Related To Story



Flooding aftermath in Floyd County

By **DANIEL SUDDEATH**

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August 06, 2009 01:52 pm

— Life somewhat returned to normal in Floyd County on Wednesday, though residents and business owners were still cleaning up the mess Tuesday's flooding left behind.

The state of emergency order issued following the storm by the Floyd County Commissioners was lifted early in the day as flood waters dissipated, revealing muddy streets that were at least passable. But Mayor Doug England said he's been in contact with Gov. Mitch Daniels in an effort to get Floyd and Clark counties declared as state emergency areas.

Such a move could help Southern Indiana with financial flooding aid.

Floyd was the only Indiana county to declare a state of emergency because of the flooding. Terry Herthel, director of the Floyd County Emergency Management Agency, is urging residents with property damage from the rain event to report their losses to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security by phone at 866-210-1925 or online at www.in.gov/dhs.

The county would have to report \$9.8 million in damage to qualify for federal help. Herthel is doubtful the storm caused that much fiscal harm. Though Floyd had seen quite a bit of flooding this summer prior to Tuesday's rainfall, Herthel said those instances can't be claimed.

"I don't think we're going to meet the threshold as far as getting federal assistance," he said.

But England said the costs are still mounting and believes that the area could get federal relief.

That's why it's important for anyone that sustained property damage to report it, he added.

"We're trying to do anything we can to get funds to citizens as well as help the city," England said. "We have so many hurt so bad that we owe them some kind of help."

He praised city crews for their work during the storm, though England said the flood "did show us where we have some weaknesses".

City streets are all open, but Steve Bush, president of the county commissioners, said county bridges and roads damaged by the storm will have to be evaluated.

"We're trying to keep the roadways open as best we can," Bush said.

In Clark County, a portion of Blackiston Mill Road — which connects Clarksville to New Albany — will have to be closed for 30 days for repairs.

"At this point, our goal is to assess all the problems we have with bridges being out and roads deteriorating from the rain," Bush said.

Even the county garage located along Old Georgetown Road flooded. The garage houses the county Highway Department.

Herthel was returning from a vacation in Mississippi on Wednesday, as his plans were cut short after getting the call that Floyd County was once again feeling the wrath of Mother Nature.

Aside from the flash flood, Southern Indiana has taken several blows in the past 18 months,

including hurricane-force winds last September, an earthquake in April 2008 and ice and snow storms earlier this year.

“It makes you wonder what the winter will bring,” Herthel said.

He plans on meeting with England and the commissioners today to go over damage reports and strategy. Herthel will then start cataloguing the destruction.

England said several streets will need to be repaved because of the flooding, as he plans to ask the New Albany City Council to appropriate funds to resurface those damaged roads.

DAMAGED ITEMS

- The New Albany Street Department is focusing on collecting items such as wet carpet and furniture. Call 812-948-5352 to request curbside service.

TO REPORT DAMAGE

- Contact the Indiana Department of Homeland Security by phone at 866-210-1925 or online at www.in.gov/dhs. Callers will be asked for their name, address and phone number, as well as the extent of their damage.

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S. Ind. reservoir closed to evaluate flood damage

Associated Press

1:11 PM CDT, August 7, 2009

GREENSBURG, Ind.

A public fishing area in southeastern Indiana has been closed while a small reservoir's water level is lowered to evaluate the condition of its levees, dam and spillway

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources says that the drawdown of the 23-acre reservoir near Greensburg will make it possible to assess the extent of damage caused by recent flooding.

The DNR bought the reservoir about 50 miles southeast of Indianapolis in 1961 and developed it into the Greensburg Public Fishing Area.

The agency says it will determine how to proceed once the situation is evaluated, but the site is closed to the public until further notice.

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August 5, 2009

Heavy storms pound area with fire and rain

Damage: Flooding, lightning strikes, power loss

By Kevin O'Neal
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A record day of rain drenched Central Indiana on Tuesday, flooding streets, downing power lines and closing roads.

Thousands of people lost electricity, and police and firefighters were overwhelmed by the number of requests for help caused by two waves of heavy storms. The downpour disrupted setup for the Indiana State Fair and forced the cancellation of outdoor concerts planned for Tuesday night.

The one-two punch of storms -- the first hit about 9:30 a.m., the next about noon -- produced 3.81 inches of rain in Indianapolis by late afternoon, the National Weather Service reported. That exceeded the Aug. 4 record of 1.52 inches set in 1903 and was the second-rainiest August day on record, topped only by the 4.46 inches that fell on Aug. 6, 1976.

Crystal Pettet, a forecaster with the National Weather Service in Indianapolis, said the heavy rain was caused by the convergence of two weather systems -- "a bunch of thunderstorms all together in a big blob" -- that moved through the area.

"Both of the systems that came through were pretty strong," Pettet said.

High water stranded several motorists in Indianapolis, and the city's Department of Public Works responded to more than 50 reports of downed trees, according to the Marion County Emergency Management office. More than 21,000 Indianapolis Power & Light Co. customers were still without power late Tuesday evening.

The rain caused a minor setback for people setting up for the Indiana State Fair, but fair spokesman Andy Klotz said everything will open as scheduled Friday.

Workers trudged through knee-deep water in some parts of the fairgrounds. They lost a day of setup time, Klotz said, but there is time to catch up.

"We're drying out," he said. "Things are in good shape, and we'll be back on it (today)."

A local appearance by Crosby, Stills & Nash was postponed because of the weather. The band will perform tonight at the Lawn at White River State Park.

The Indy Parks said outdoor concerts at Broad Ripple and Eagle Creek parks also were postponed. Makeup dates have not been set.

Areas of Johnson County were hit even harder, with 4.2 inches of rain measured in Greenwood.

Many roads were under water, reminding residents of the floods of June 2008.

High water surrounded the Floors to Go showroom, 8965 S. Madison Ave., but the business and its parking lot stayed dry.

"It kind of cuts down our traffic flow," said Denny Henry, a Floors to Go salesman for 30 years.

Henry said the business generally sees a bump in sales after serious floods.

"I don't like to take advantage of people's problems," he said, "but in this weather, there are going to be a lot of people with flooded basements and wet floors."

Injuries were reported in several traffic accidents during the storm, including a rollover crash about 1:19 p.m. near the Greenwood exit on I-65. State Police said a southbound Chevrolet Impala hydroplaned on several inches of standing water. The driver, Tracy W. Kory, 35, Winchester, was slightly injured. I-65 was closed temporarily at the 87-mile marker because of power lines that fell across all four lanes.

The Noblesville Fire Department rescued two people after trees fell into their homes.

Fire Division Chief Rick Russell said the department rescued a woman from her South Ninth Street home after a tree crashed through her house. The woman was not hurt.

Fire officials also rescued a child from his home in the Deer Path subdivision on the city's east side after a tree smashed into it. The child was taken to a hospital with a head injury.

Mike Dotson, 42, Noblesville, said a transformer caught fire in his Lake Crest neighborhood and crashed to the ground in an explosion like fireworks. He said several trees fell near his home, and Tuesday evening, they were still lying on top of cable wires stretched from utility poles.

"It blew through pretty hard," he said of the storm.

In Brownsburg, a lightning strike caused a fire that destroyed the roof of a home in the Lake Ridge neighborhood. No one was at home when the fire started about 10 a.m., said Ryan Miller, Brownsburg Fire Department's public information officer.

"There was heavy fire already through the roof by the time we got there," he said.

Rob Fast, who lives nearby, said he was watching the weather radar and worrying about the numerous lightning strikes but didn't realize a home in his neighborhood had been hit until he heard sirens.

"I went out, saw it engulfed in flames, and there was no doubt in my mind it was a lightning strike," he said. "I actually was shocked there weren't more fires caused by lightning in the area."

About a dozen Hendricks County homes were struck by lightning Tuesday, said Steven Cook, deputy director of the county's communications center. Most of the strikes caused minor damage, though a Plainfield home was left with a hole in the roof.

The communications center in Plainfield also experienced a power outage. Backup generators provided power for more than an hour, Cook said.

Duke Energy, which provides electricity to many areas outside Indianapolis, reported about 15,000 customers without power late Tuesday evening.

Elsewhere in Indiana, there were reports of hail in Crawfordsville and high water blocking roads in Seymour.

Wind gusts of more than 60 mph were reported west of Monrovia and in Indianapolis. Similar winds were measured in Frankfort and Lafayette.

Additional Facts

Cleanup tips

Here are tips for cleaning up after your house floods:

» **Basements:** Remove as much water-soaked material as possible, such as furniture, drywall or carpeting. Open windows or use a dehumidifier to dry out the area. Use a fan to keep air moving and prevent mold. Wipe down and clean surfaces with a biocide or disinfectant. Do not wade in water -- you'll risk electric shock. If there is standing water, use a submersible sump pump or call a contractor.

» **Floors:** Before the house dries, scrub floors with a stiff brush, water, detergent and disinfectant. Wooden floors should be dried gradually, as sudden drying can cause cracking. Do not refinish floors until they're thoroughly dry, and always check for buckling.

» **Carpets:** Soaked rugs should be removed or cleaned by a professional. Discard if carpet was under water for more than 24 hours. Even less-damaged carpets may contain mold or mildew. Vinyl flooring or tile may need to be removed to allow drying of the floor below.

» **Walls:** Wash out all mud and dirt as soon as possible with a hose and mop cloth. Remove wallboard, plaster and paneling to at least flood level. Plaster doesn't need to be replaced, but it will take a long time to dry. Wash and disinfect walls. For disinfectant, use a cup of chlorine bleach with a gallon of water.

» **Electronics:** Professional cleaning is recommended for electronic equipment and appliances because of the danger of shock. Check warning labels.

Source: Star research

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