



REBUILDING

A Guide for Disaster Survivors

March 16, 2012

www.DHS.in.gov

Issue 11

Thank you to all business owners and other organizations who have helped us circulate the newsletter.

Today, 3/16 will be the last day this newsletter is published. For any updates please check out:

<http://www.in.gov/dhs/>

Clark County water conservation advisory

Repairs begin today on a 280,000-gallon water tank for the Rural Membership Water Corp. of Clark County that was damaged in the March 2 tornadoes. While water will continue to be supplied, customers of the Rural Membership Water Corp. of Clark County are asked to be conscious of their water use over the next two months and limit activities such as watering lawns and washing cars. Utility officials note that this is not an emergency situation, and the smaller back-up tank still has a sufficient supply. Conservation efforts will help conserve water or emergency fire services.

Tornado drills Wednesday

Residents should be aware that as part of Severe Weather Preparedness week (March 18-24), on Wednesday, March 21 there will be two, statewide tornado drills—the first between 10:00-10:30 a.m., and the second between 7:30-8:00 p.m. Be aware, and remind children that the alerts are only drills.

NWS forecasts scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 79. Southwest wind between 3 and 8 mph. Chance of precipitation today is 50%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

FEMA on the ground to help Community relations specialists with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are going door to door to meet with Indiana residents affected by severe weather Feb. 29 to March 3, 2012.

All FEMA specialists display badges identifying them as federal representatives. If a badge is not visible, ask to see it.

FEMA will NEVER send email asking for personal information. Inspectors who are confirming damage or calling homeowners for appointments to inspect damage will not ask for sensitive information, and they will never ask for any payments.

Missing a Pet?

Contact local animal control, as well as shelters in neighboring communities. JB Ogle Animal Shelter (812-282-0071) in Jeffersonville is holding more than 60 dogs and cats picked up after the storms.

Emotional Care

Call the 24 hour no-cost hotline to talk and get help managing recovery: 866-679-4631

Call 2-1-1 to request assistance or to ask recovery questions

IDHS: Leadership for a safe and secure Indiana

Sellersburg One Stop Shop (OSS) downsizing:

The last day of full service operations at the Sellersburg One Stop Shop will be Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Subsequently, FEMA will continue to remain on site daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. until further notice to operate its disaster recovery center (DRC) with the Small Business Administration and the Internal Revenue Service.

In addition, the Family and Social Services Administration will remain at the site Saturday (3/17), Sunday (3/18) and Monday (3/19) from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. to operate the disaster food stamp program.

One-Day Pekin One-Stop Shop (OSS): A one-day only OSS will be set up in Pekin on Friday, March 16, 2012. The OSS will be located at 210 E. Timber Blvd., Pekin, IN 47165. The hours will be 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. A FEMA Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) will be co-located with the OSS.

State agencies at One Stop Shops

American Red Cross– Basic necessities

Bureau of Motor Vehicles – Replacement driver's licenses, identification cards and permits will be provided at no charge to citizens impacted by the disaster. Other services include title replacement, registrations and license plates.

Department of Insurance – Information on lost or damaged policies, obtaining copies of insurance policies, and car insurance assistance.

Department of Workforce Development – Application for state unemployment benefits

Faith Based & Community Initiatives (*Sellersburg only*)

Indiana Department of Health (*Sellersburg only*)

Indiana Dept. of Children's Services (*Sellersburg only*)

Indiana Department of Homeland Security – general disaster recovery information; damage reports

Indiana Family and Social Services Administration – Replacement food stamps for families impacted by the disaster who are currently receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-food stamps) benefits; counseling services

Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority – List of emergency shelters, temporary housing and rental assistance

Indiana State Department of Health – vaccination information; clean up advice; access and information to vital records – birth and death certificates.

Internal Revenue Service (*Sellersburg only*)

Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC)

The Sellersburg DRC located at the Ivy Tech campus at I-65 and Hwy 311(I-65 exit 9) in Sellersburg, IN, will remain open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.

DRC staff can answer questions about registration for federal disaster assistance and hazard mitigation; and provide information and contacts for other programs.

Representatives from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will be on hand to answer questions about SBA low interest disaster loans.

You do NOT need to apply in person at any disaster recovery center for FEMA aid.

Homeowners, renters and business owners affected by the storms are encouraged to register for assistance anytime online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling the telephone registration line, 1-800-621-FEMA (3362), which is available from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week.

Scammers impersonate American Red Cross workers in tornado affected areas

Citizens of the impacted tornado areas have reported receiving calls from individuals identifying themselves as American Red Cross workers.

During the call, residents are asked to leave their home and to pay a twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) fee for debris removal.

The American Red Cross will never call and ask for money for disaster relief services. If anyone calls or shows up at your home representing themselves as part of the American Red Cross and asks for money, report the contact to local law enforcement immediately.

Prevent Mosquitoes

With warmer-than-normal spring temperatures, insects are starting to become active. Take steps now to remove and prevent standing water that could become mosquito breeding sites.

Disaster food stamp assistance

Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) received approval from USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to issue disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to qualified victims living in specific zip codes in Clark, Jefferson, Ripley, Scott, Warrick and Washington Counties.

Disaster victims living in designated zip codes who are not usually eligible for SNAP may temporarily qualify if their home or belongings were damaged or destroyed, and they have un-reimbursed disaster-related expenses, OR if they have lost income, food or money as a result of the severe storms and tornados.

To view a complete list of approved zip codes, to online to: www.in.gov/gov/disasterrecovery.htm

Disaster food stamps applications will be accepted Wednesday, 3/14 – Monday, 3/19, 8 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the One Stop Shop for Tornado Disaster Relief (OSS). Applications will also be accepted at FSSA Division of Family Resources (DFR) offices located in the federal disaster counties (during normal business hours). Applications must be made by Thursday, 3/22.

HOW TO CLEAN UP MOLD

Recent storms in Indiana may have caused mold to grow inside buildings causing serious health risks. Individuals should disinfect and *completely dry* storm-impacted buildings.

- When disinfecting with bleach:
 - never use more than one cup bleach to one gallon water
 - never mix bleach with ammonia or other cleaners;
 - wear rubber boots, gloves, goggles and a mask; and
 - open windows and doors when weather permits.
- Do not use fans; if mold already exists, it could spread.
- Fix leaks in pipes and any damp areas around tubs and sinks.
- Rebuild using water-resistant materials.
- Prevent water seepage from outdoors by installing or reinforcing rain spouts.

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) provides additional information about mold clean up online. Visit: <http://www.in.gov/isdh/reports/breathesville/triggers/mold.html>.

DCS OFFERS VOUCHERS FOR CHILDREN

The vouchers will be available at the One Stop Shop (OSS) in Sellersburg for any people who have children. Vouchers are for new bedding, beds and clothing for kids. Families DO NOT have to be involved with our agency to receive the vouchers. They only need picture ID and they will be processed and DCS staff will complete vouchers then families can go and purchase the items at designated stores. DCS will be there through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Indiana residents may qualify for federal disaster assistance to repair or replace septic systems damaged during tornados

Homeowners who have to move out of their homes because of septic system failure may receive septic repair or replacement assistance and may also be eligible for rental assistance while the home is made livable.

Renters may also be able to receive rental assistance while the dwelling is made livable, but costs for repair or replacement of a septic system are the responsibility of the property owner.

To apply:

- Register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- After registration, an inspector will come to the house to identify and record damage.
- Obtain a receipt or estimate for parts and labor from a LICENSED contractor stating that the estimate or actual cost paid is/was required to make the home habitable.
- Obtain any necessary permits from local officials.

Recovering from a disaster checklist

Tips from the Better Business Bureau

Recover emotionally

- Get rest and plenty of water and focus on the positive
- Reach out and accept help from others (Call 211 for a referral to local services)
- Stay connected with your family and other support systems

Check your home

- If safe, check your home for structural damage (Check outside the home before entering)
- Check utilities and major systems
- Check household items like chemicals, food, and medications

Document damage

- Photograph damage extensively and prepare a list of lost items
- Take photos from multiple angles; from a distance and close up
- Provide detailed notes describing the photographs

Notify government agencies

- Report damage to IDHS and/or county emergency management officials
- Register for assistance with FEMA www.DisasterAssistance.gov

Recover financially

- Contact your insurance agent, broker, or insurance company
 - Consult with your agent before hiring a contractor or starting repairs
 - Follow local law enforcement and news reports to avoid scams
- Contact banks, credit card companies, and mortgage company
- Replace vital documents like driver's license; birth, death, and marriage certificates; and passport

Begin rebuilding

- Deal only with licensed and insured contractors.
- Resist dealing with any contractor who asks you to pay for the entire job up-front. A deposit of one-third the price is often standard procedure. Pay only by check or credit card – and pay the final amount only after the work is completed to your satisfaction. **DO NOT PAY CASH**
- Get at least three bids in writing and be sure you compare the bids based on the same warranty, specifications, labor, and time.
- Take your time signing a contract. Get a written estimate that includes and oral promises the contractor made. Remember to ask if there's a charge for an estimate before allowing anyone into your home. Get a copy of the signed contract before the job begins.

The American Red Cross has a complete guide on recovering from a disaster that can be found at http://www.redcross.org/www-files/Documents/pdf/getting_assistance/pickingupthepieces_disaster.pdf

Stay Connected to Get Up-to-Date Information

Disaster Recovery Website: emergency.in.gov
Help and Info: Call 2-1-1 (or 317-926-4357)
Apply for FEMA fema.gov or 800-621-FEMA (3362)
Crisis counseling: 1-866-679-4631
Red Cross: 800.696.3873
Find buried wires and pipes: Call 8-1-1 (landline only) or 800-382-5544
Twitter: @IDHS

Help for persons with developmental disabilities, Arc of Indiana: (317) 224-0276.
Facebook: Search for "Indiana Department of Homeland Security"
Updates: Text "follow IDHS" to 40404
Preparedness Info: GetPrepared.in.gov
Travel Information: <http://indot.carsprogram.org> or 800-261-ROAD (7623)