



COUNTY OF KENOSHA

Administrative Services Emergency Management

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PRESS RELEASE

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FLOOD INFORMATION

All residents with storm or flood damages are asked to E-mail Kenosha County Emergency Management at EMDisaster@co.kenosha.wi.us or call the Kenosha County Emergency Management Damage Hotline at 262-605-7926 or 262-605-7928 to report their flood/storm damages. Information needed is: Name, address, phone number, Municipality, whether they are insured, how much water/sewage they had and whether it was on the first floor or in the basement. If phone lines are busy, residents are asked to please call back. Do to the overwhelming number of phone calls, return calls will be made if additional information is needed. People requesting additional assistance are asked to call the appropriate number listed below. The information collected from the Damage Hotline will be utilized for a Damage Report that will be sent to WI Emergency Management to determine if there might be any federal assistance available to Kenosha County residents.

To date the only other County to report damages in WI is Grant County. To be eligible for a FEMA Declaration there needs to be at least 75 homes Statewide that has Major damage (Two or more feet on first floor – no basement and/or Structural damage; collapsed basement walls). In lieu of a FEMA Declaration, Small Business Loans may be available for residents if within Kenosha County there are at least 25 homes/businesses with 40% or more of uninsured losses, based upon the value of the structure. Last year the interest rate was approximately 2% over 30 years.

Several people have notified Kenosha County Emergency Management that a FEMA Official has been in Kenosha County talking with people. At the request of Kenosha County Emergency Management, WI Emergency Management Officials checked with FEMA and found that no FEMA Officials have been in Kenosha County. Anyone who says that they are from FEMA is an imposter and FEMA Officials are asking that Law Enforcement be aware in case this person is trying to Scam people. If and when FEMA Officials are in the County, media, County/Municipal Officials and law enforcement will be notified.

Residents with questions regarding flood cleanup, well water testing or any health hazard questions can contact the Kenosha County Division of Public Health's Hotline at 262-605-6700.

Elderly or disabled needing assistance can call Kenosha County Aging & Disability Services at 262-605-6646. Callers will be sent to Information & Assistance staff who can talk with them about their needs. Currently they do not have a list of volunteers that can assist with the cleanup, but they maintain a list of resources.

Residents with contaminated wells from floodwaters should have their wells tested before resuming use of their water. Floodwaters can contain bacteria and waste contaminants that threaten water supplies. Kenosha County Division of Health is making free well test kits available to residents whose wells have been contaminated by flood waters. The free well test kits are available from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the following locations:

- Kenosha County Division of Health, Kenosha County Job Center, 8600 Sheridan Road, Suite 600, Kenosha,
- Kenosha County Department of Human Services/Kenosha County Department of Planning and Development, Kenosha County Center, 19600 75th Street, Bristol.

Residents in need of Flood Cleanup Kits can pick them up at:

- Bristol Town Hall, 19801 83rd Street
- Salem Town Hall, 9814 Antioch Road (Highway 83)
- Village of Pleasant Prairie Fire Station, 8044 88th Avenue
- Kenosha County Div. of Health, Kenosha County Job Center, 8600 Sheridan Road, Suite 600, Kenosha
- Kenosha County Department of Human Services, Kenosha County Center, 19600 75th Street, Bristol.

Residents who are in need of temporary shelter can contact the American Red Cross at 1-800-236-8680

Residents needing any other assistance not listed above are asked to call Kenosha County Emergency Management at 262-605-7900

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Listed below is information on Preventing Mold Growth from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Helpful Resources.

Safely Preventing Mold Growth

Clean up and dry out the building quickly (within 24 to 48 hours). Open doors and windows. Use fans to dry out the building. (See the fact sheet for drying out your house, [Reentering Your Flooded Home](#)).

When in doubt, take it out! Remove all porous items that have been wet for more than 48 hours and that cannot be thoroughly cleaned and dried. These items can remain a source of mold growth and should be removed from the home. Porous, non-cleanable items include carpeting and carpet padding, upholstery, wallpaper, drywall, floor and ceiling tiles, insulation material, some clothing, leather, paper, wood, and food. Removal and cleaning are important because even dead mold may cause allergic reactions in some people.

- To *prevent* mold growth, clean wet items and surfaces with detergent and water.

- Homeowners may want to temporarily store items outside of the home until insurance claims can be filed. [See recommendations by the Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#).
- If you wish to disinfect, refer to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) document, [A Brief Guide to Mold and Moisture in Your Home](#).

If there is mold growth in your home, you should clean up the mold *and* fix any water problem, such as leaks in roofs, walls, or plumbing. Controlling moisture in your home is the most critical factor for preventing mold growth.

To *remove* mold growth from hard surfaces use commercial products, soap and water, or a bleach solution of no more than 1 cup of bleach in 1 gallon of water. Use a stiff brush on rough surface materials such as concrete.

If you choose to use bleach to remove mold:

- Never mix bleach with ammonia or other household cleaners. Mixing bleach with ammonia or other cleaning products will produce dangerous, toxic fumes
- Open windows and doors to provide fresh air.
- Wear non-porous gloves and protective eye wear.
- If the area to be cleaned is more than 10 square feet, consult the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guide titled *Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings*. Although focused on schools and commercial buildings, this document also applies to other building types. You can get it free by calling the EPA Indoor Air Quality Information Clearinghouse at (800) 438-4318, or by going to the EPA web site at http://www.epa.gov/mold/mold_remediation.html.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when using bleach or any other cleaning product.
- More information on personal safety while cleaning up after a natural disaster is available at emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/workers.asp.

If you plan to be inside the building for a while or you plan to clean up mold, you should buy an N95 mask at your local home supply store and wear it while in the building. Make certain that you follow instructions on the package for fitting the mask tightly to your face. If you go back into the building for a short time and are not cleaning up mold, you do not need to wear an N95 mask.

Additional Resources for those affected by the June 2009 Flooding

American Red Cross – 1-800-236-8680

Flood Clean Up Kits
Basic Needs
Housing Assistance

Crisis Intervention – 262-657-7188

Racine/Kenosha Community Action Agency, Inc. – 262-657-0840

Emergency food pantry

Salvation Army – 262-564-0286

Mold remediation contractor information – <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/eh/mold/>