

News Release
6/23/08
Fox River Flooding

The Fox River in Waushara County continues to be at a major flood level. Recently the water has risen at a slower rate, but rainfall in the area will impact the water levels for several weeks.

Residents in 36th Road in the Town of Aurora that are a part of Waushara County's Emergency Flood Evacuation Plan have been notified that they should be prepared to evacuate. As of 8:15 am today the water level is at 16.04'. Current conditions may be found at www.crh.noaa.gov

Residents of the Town of Aurora may obtain sand bags from Waushara County Emergency Management by calling 920-787-3321 to arrange for someone to meet them at the pick up point in Wautoma. Sand and bags are also available in the Town of Aurora for those residents that wish to fill their own.

If the water level reaches 16.2' the Emergency Plan requires that those residents on 36th Road in the designated area must be evacuated. Information will be provided to the media and on the Waushara County web site at www.co.waushara.wi.us

The following information has been provided by the Waushara County Public Health Department:

If a private well has been **submerged** by floodwaters: **1)** Do not drink the water from the well, assume it's contaminated. **2)** Wait for the water to recede and then shock/chlorinate the well. **3)** Sample the well for bacteria. **4)** If the sample is unsafe to drink, disinfect the well again and resample.

Well Disinfection: If you have questions or need help to shock/disinfect your well properly, please contact the Waushara County Health Department's Environmental Specialist at 920-787-6590. Disinfection instructions can be found on the DNR website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/flood.htm>
Steve Ales, DNR, and some DNR drinking water staff are also able to help well owners over the phone with questions about how to correctly disinfect their well: 608-275-3311 or stephen.ales@wisconsin.gov

Well Test Kits: Fee-exempt well testing is available to confirm that the water is bacteriologically safe. Contact the Waushara County Health Department for more information and to request a free well testing kit at 920-787-6590.

Sheriff David R. Peterson



Human Services

June 26, 2008

PO Box 1230
Wautoma, Wisconsin 54982
Phone: 1-888-250-4331

To: All Residents:
From: Glenn A. Johnson
Re: Flooding

We would like to take this opportunity to let each of you know that we are sorry you have to deal with the many challenges associated with the impact of the flooding in your area of the county. It would be difficult for most of us to truly understand how this must be for you and your families.

We know that other Departments of the County have also sent to you information related to services or support you may access during these difficult times. The Department of Human Services would also like to share with you the following.

At this time FEMA has not declared this part of Waushara County a disaster area which limits the resources available to you and your family. What we can offer at this time are safety checks for loved ones. If you or someone you know would like one of our Crisis Staff to stop in to pay you a visit to see how you are dealing with the day to day uncertainty then just call any of the numbers listed on this document. Also, you may know someone that may not call us but you are worried about them such as a person living alone or an elderly person. Please call us and we can stop by there residence to make sure they are safe.

Counseling is also available if need be if you or someone you know is experiencing difficulty coping with the emotional challenges associated with the long days of uncertainty.

Another resource for information and assistance would be a call to our Aging and Disability Resource Center at 920-787-6505 or 1-877-883-5378. Our staff at the Resource Center has information that should address most questions you may have related to concerns or needs.

Finally, we encourage anyone to call us with any question or concern. We promise to look for every avenue to provide support to you and your family during this difficult time. Please keep safe and know that you are in our thoughts.

Respectfully,
Glenn A. Johnson
Director

North Annex

230 W. Park Street
Wautoma, WI 54982
920-787-6550
FAX: 920-787-0421

South Annex

205 W. Elm Street
Wautoma, WI 54982
920-787-6600
FAX: 920-787-0465

Waushara Connections

209 S. Ste. Marie Street
Wautoma, WI 54982
920-787-6505 or 877-883-5378
FAX: 920-787-6506

Waushara County Sheriff's Department

David R. Peterson, Sheriff

430 East Division Street

Wautoma, WI 54982

920-787-3321

Fax: 920-787-7685

<i>Emergency Management</i>	920-787-6571	<i>Jail</i>	920-787-6591	<i>Work Release Center</i>	920-787-6659
<i>Fax</i>	920-787-7685	<i>Fax</i>	920-787-6524	<i>Fax</i>	920-787-6658

Are You Ready?

Floods

Floods are one of the most common hazards in the United States. Flood effects can be local, impacting a neighborhood or community, or very large, affecting entire river basins and multiple states.

However, all floods are not alike. Some floods develop slowly, sometimes over a period of days. But flash floods can develop quickly, sometimes in just a few minutes and without any visible signs of rain. Flash floods often have a dangerous wall of roaring water that carries rocks, mud, and other debris and can sweep away most things in its path. Overland flooding occurs outside a defined river or stream, such as when a levee is breached, but still can be destructive. Flooding can also occur when a dam breaks, producing effects similar to flash floods.

Be aware of flood hazards no matter where you live, but especially if you live in a low-lying area, near water or downstream from a dam. Even very small streams, gullies, creeks, culverts, dry streambeds, or low-lying ground that appear harmless in dry weather can flood. Every state is at risk from this hazard.

Know the Terms

Familiarize yourself with these terms to help identify a flood hazard:

Flood Watch:

Flooding is possible. Tune in to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information.

Flash Flood Watch:

Flash flooding is possible. Be prepared to move to higher ground; listen to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information.

Flood Warning:

Flooding is occurring or will occur soon; if advised to evacuate, do so immediately.

Flash Flood Warning:

A flash flood is occurring; seek higher ground on foot immediately.

Take Protective Measures

Before a Flood

To prepare for a flood, you should:

- Avoid building in a floodplain unless you elevate and reinforce your home.
- Elevate the furnace, water heater, and electric panel if susceptible to flooding.
- Install "check valves" in sewer traps to prevent flood water from backing up into the drains of your home.
- Construct barriers (levees, beams, floodwalls) to stop floodwater from entering the building.
- Seal walls in basements with waterproofing compounds to avoid seepage.

During a Flood

If a flood is likely in your area, you should:

- Listen to the radio or television for information.
- Be aware that flash flooding can occur. If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to higher ground. Do not wait for instructions to move.
- Be aware of streams, drainage channels, canyons, and other areas known to flood suddenly. Flash floods can occur in these areas with or without such typical warnings as rain clouds or heavy rain.

If you must prepare to evacuate, you should do the following:

- Secure your home. If you have time, bring in outdoor furniture. Move essential items to an upper floor.
- Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves if instructed to do so. Disconnect electrical appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.

If you have to leave your home, remember these evacuation tips:

- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. You and the vehicle can be quickly swept away.

Driving Flood Facts

The following are important points to remember when driving in flood conditions:

- Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling.
- A foot of water will float many vehicles.
- Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles (SUV's) and pick-ups.

After a Flood

The following are guidelines for the period following a flood:

- Listen for news reports to learn whether the community's water supply is safe to drink.
- Avoid floodwaters; water may be contaminated by oil, gasoline, or raw sewage. Water may also be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- Avoid moving water.
- Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded. Roads may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.
- Stay away from downed power lines, and report them to the power company.
- Return home only when authorities indicate it is safe.
- Stay out of any building if it is surrounded by floodwaters.
- Use extreme caution when entering buildings; there may be hidden damage, particularly in foundations.
- Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits, and leaching systems as soon as possible. Damaged sewage systems are serious health hazards.
- Clean and disinfect everything that got wet. Mud left from floodwater can contain sewage and chemicals.

Additional Information**Flood Insurance**

Consider the following facts:

- Flood losses are not covered under homeowners' insurance policies.

- FEMA manages the National Flood Insurance Program, which makes federally-backed flood insurance available in communities that agree to adopt and enforce floodplain management ordinances to reduce future flood damage.
- Flood insurance is available in most communities through insurance agents.
- There is a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance goes into effect, so don't delay.
- Flood insurance is available whether the building is in or out of the identified flood-prone area.

Damage Reporting

Should damage occur, contact Town of Aurora officials or you may also contact Waushara County Emergency Management at 920-787-3321.

American Red Cross

Repairing Your Flooded Home, a sixty-page booklet about how to perform simple home repairs after flooding, including cleaning, sanitation, and determining which professionals to involve for various needed services. Contact Local Red Cross chapters, for a nominal fee. The booklet is also available online at www.redcross.org/services/disaster/0,1082,0_570_00.html.

Source information: Federal Emergency Management and American Red Cross

Information provided by: Waushara County Sheriff's Department and Office of Emergency Management

Waushara County
Land Conservation & Zoning
P.O. Box 1109
Wautoma, WI 54982-1109
(920) 787-0443
Fax (920) 787-6516
E-mail lcdzoning.courthouse@co.waushara.wi.us

M E M O

TO : Fox River Riparian Property Owners

RE : Technical Assistance and Cost/Sharing Available for
Damaged Riverbanks on the Fox River in Waushara
County

DATE : 6/26/2008

The Waushara County Land Conservation Department and the United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) may be able to provide technical assistance and cost-sharing to repair damaged river banks on the Fox River in Waushara County.

Any riparian landowners who received severe erosion as a result of the recent flooding may apply. The Land Conservation Department has staff and funding from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection through their Land & Water Resource Management Program. The USDA-NRCS has staff and funding through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

Any interested riparian landowner can contact the Land Conservation Department in Wautoma at 920-787-0443 or the USDA-NRCS in Westfield at 608-296-2815 Monday – Friday 8AM – 4:30PM for additional information or to arrange for an evaluation of your property.

Waushara County Health Department
230 W. Park Street – P.O. Box 837
Wautoma, WI 54982
920-787-6590
Fax: 920-787-6511



Dear Landowner,

As many of the areas around Wisconsin and Waushara County face flooding the Waushara County Health Department is concerned about human health hazards in relationship to flooding.

You are being sent this letter individually because you are listed in the flood plain area of our special plan. I want to address a few issues with you quickly. Do feel free to call our office at any time with questions at 920-787-6590.

First, if your well has been submerged by flood waters or may have been contaminated by run off by organic material from flood waters do not drink your water. Once the water has receded disinfect your well and then sample your well for bacteria. We have free well sampling kits that can be obtained from us. Information on how to disinfect your well properly can be found by calling our office and talking to the Environmental Specialist or on the DNR website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/flood.htm>

Once the water has gone down and the water table had receded, the septic system must be pumped before it is used.

The recent flooding rains can cause perfect breeding grounds for mosquitoes as it is likely they will find many sources of stagnant water in which to lay their eggs and complete their life cycle. The best way to destroy breeding habitat is to eliminate these sources of standing water. Some items to focus on are; used tires, plastic wading pools, bird baths, roof gutters, and other things that hold water for an extended period of time.

Some homeowners have concerns with mold after flooding.

Here are some other important tips when cleaning and repairing flood-damaged homes:

- Carpeting, drywall and other building materials affected by flood waters will in most instances need to be removed and discarded. **ANY POROUS MATERIALS THAT CAN NOT BE DRIED IN 48 HOURS SHOULD BE DISCARDED.**

- A twenty page booklet is available online from the EPA that gives simple instructions for safely cleaning your home after a flood.
http://www.epa.gov/mold/flood/flood_booklet_en.pdf
- Do not rush to replace drywall and carpeting. The home must be thoroughly dried before installing new materials.
 - Using dehumidifiers and fans can hasten this process. Weather permitting, open windows to further assist with the ventilation and drying of basements, crawl spaces and living areas.
 - Walls typically need several days to dry and floors may take several weeks. It may make sense to remove wet sub flooring.
- If using a portable generator, keep it outside and far away from the building. The exhaust or fumes from a portable generator could kill you in minutes if you breathe it in.
- Remember to protect yourself while cleaning. Wear work boots, eye and hand protection and, if working with mold, respiratory protection.

The Health Department does have adult tetanus vaccines available for free if needed. Please call if you need assistance with vaccination questions. Lastly, there have been many safety concerns in areas with children and pets playing in flood water areas due to the potential for disease and bacteria flood water can carry. Please take care.

Sincerely,

Patti Wohlfeil, BCRN, MPA
Health Officer/Director
Waushara County Health Department
920-787-6590