



**CEDAR RAPIDS**  
City of Five Seasons

## **STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT**

WEEK OF JUNE 23, 2008

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*Cedar Rapids is a vibrant urban hometown - a beacon for people and businesses that are invested in building a greater community for the next generation.*

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The week of June 8 started with routine flood protection efforts by our Public Works maintenance crews. By the end of the week we had experienced a historic flood event. We have been advised that this event was the worst public disaster in the history of the State. Cedar Rapids was at the center of this 2008 millennium flood. Remarkably, no one in Cedar Rapids lost their life or was seriously injured as a result of this event. The credit for this result and for the heroic responses to protect the health, safety and welfare of our residents belong squarely with our employees. The planning, teamwork, initiative, courage and compassion displayed during this event and since have been inspiring and reaffirming.

This is the type of event we prepare and train for and yet hope never to see. But we did in Cedar Rapids. You met the challenge head-on and displayed your commitment to the City. The credit for this response belongs to all of you - those directly involved with operations during the event and those involved in support during and after. We have not only protected the community during this event but we have recovered and restored almost all basic services to the public within just days. The loss of vital facilities including Central Police and Fire Stations, Public Works, Ground Transportation Center and City Hall as well as virtually all vital communications links didn't get in the way of your exceptional customer service.

This could not have happened without your dedication and commitment to the City. On behalf of the City Council and community, please accept my deepest gratitude and thanks.

*Jim Prosser*

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

- ✓ Any change of life event forms (such as birth of child, marriage, etc.) submitted in the past 2 weeks should be resubmitted. The electronic processing of new hires will be replaced with the former paper version of Personnel Action Forms. Managers who have employees who cannot be productive due to loss of normal resources will submit names to the Human Resources Department to develop a list for other departments who could use their assistance.
- ✓ Coping with a disaster such as the 2008 Flood can be hard for both adults and children alike. The **EAP** (Employee Assistance Program) is available to help employees and their families in stressful times like these. There is no cost to you. It is a safe and confidential way to help through the stress, loss, depression and pressure you may be feeling right now. You can call 398-6694 or 1-800-383-6694 and schedule an appointment at any of these convenient locations:
  - Mercy Health Plaza 5264 Council St NE*
  - MercyCare Vernon Village, 3933 Mt. Vernon Rd SE*
  - MercyCare Marion, 3701 Katz Dr, Marion*
  - MercyCare Blairs Ferry 1790 Blairs Ferry Rd, Hiawatha*
- ✓ Or you can call the **Iowa Concern Hotline** at 1-800-447-1985 which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. With a caring staff they provide stress counseling, legal information, and financial information or can refer you to other services that you may need.

- ✓ Don't let your guard down. Although the flood waters have gone away there is still much to do and all of us need to keep our mind on the task. Patience is a must.
- ✓ **BUILDING ACCESS** - Most of us have left behind documents, files and papers in flooded offices. Buildings are still not ready for entry. If a building has been classified as a "NO ACCESS" building then that means NO ACCESS. No employees should be making entry into any building that has sustained flood damage without first contacting the Safety and Health Department. Non-city employees and volunteers are prohibited from entering any flood-affected City building at this time.
- ✓ **AIR QUALITY** - Flood water can make the air unhealthy. When things get wet for more than 2 days they usually get moldy. There may also be germs and bugs in the area after a flood.
- ✓ **STRETCHING** - As we continue to put in long days of heavy physical labor it is important to remind your employees to practice good stretching before, during and after work. Stretching helps to prevent injuries and premature muscle fatigue.
- ✓ **HYDRATION** - It is important to stay hydrated during heavy physical labor. Water is the best medicine to accomplish this. You can also use electrolyte based drinks mixed with your water intake. Each individual is different when it comes to measuring how much you should be drinking. There are, however, two simple methods of estimating adequate hydration:
  1. **Monitoring urine volume output and color.** A large amount of light colored, diluted urine probably means you are hydrated; dark colored, concentrated urine probably means you are dehydrated.
  2. **Weighing yourself before and after your shift.** Any weight lost is likely from fluid, so try to drink enough to replenish those losses. Any weight gain could mean you are drinking more than you need. It's also important to remember to maintain your food intake. Don't skip meals. This helps to keep the nutrients and proper levels of sodium and potassium in your body to help with hydration and energy.
- ✓ **PPE** - Proper personal protective equipment should be worn at all times. Rubber boots, gloves, and safety glasses should be the minimum protection in flood damaged areas. If working around above normal noise then hearing protection should also be in place. For further questions please contact Don Stockton at 286-5034.

## **PARKS & RECREATION**

- ✓ The outdoor pools have reopened for swimming. Cherry Hill and Noelridge Aquatic Centers opened June 18<sup>th</sup> while Bever and Jones opened June 21<sup>st</sup>. Bender Pool reopened June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The splash pads and spray pools opened June 21<sup>st</sup>.
- ✓ Several facilities will need to be inspected due to flood damage. Ellis Pool, Jones Golf Course and Clubhouse, the Roundhouse, Time Check Recreation Center, and the Ellis boat harbor all have extensive damage. Ushers Ferry also has buildings that need to be inspected although the Visitor's Center was not affected. Tait Cummins Sports Complex and Ellis softball diamonds are closed until further notice. The park restrooms in the non-affected areas have reopened for use.
- ✓ Recreation programs are being held as scheduled with the following exceptions:
  - Drop In Program is meeting as scheduled at the Ambroz Recreation Center
  - Major League T-Ball on Mondays and Wednesdays has been moved from Time Check Center to the Jones Park lower diamond
  - Summer Soccer Fun on Tuesdays has been moved from Time Check Center to the Jones Park soccer field
  - Pool lesson sessions A & AA have been cancelled at all pools.
  - All pool lesson sessions have been cancelled at Ellis Pool. Those registered are being contacted for alternate classes at the remaining pools.
- ✓ Parks crews have been busy preparing non-flooded park areas for use as well as filling trails with rock that have been washed out by heavy rains.
- ✓ Jones golf course and clubhouse experienced severe flooding. The golf course will be down for the rest of the season. The clubhouse has been inspected and cleared for entry. Non-damaged merchandise, fixtures, and computers have been removed. Munter has been awarded the bid for demolition/cleaning of Jones clubhouse for \$11,962.10 and started work on Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **POLICE**

- ✓ The Police Academy recently completed their 3<sup>rd</sup> week. The recruits got an up close and personal look at what Community Oriented Policing truly is all about. They were moving items, sandbagging and assisting with evacuating the police department.

- ✓ Police Officers changed their hours during the flood and were working 12 hours on and 12 hours off during the emergency. Reserves and Citizen Police Volunteers worked numerous hours as well.
- ✓ The assistance from outside law enforcement agencies was tremendous. There were 750 National Guard members, Air National Guard, Navy, and Coast Guards. Out of state departments included Minneapolis PD, Bloomington PD, St. Paul PD, Hennepin County Sheriff, Nebraska State Patrol and Lincoln PD. Iowa Highway Patrol, DPS Enforcement, DCI, Indianola PD, Toledo PD, Mt Vernon PD, Marion PD, Linn County SO, Cass County SO, Warren County SO were all in State law enforcement that helped. At the Federal level, DEA, FBI, ATF, ICE and Treasury Department Enforcement were all assisting as well.
- ✓ Effective Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, Emergency Parking Enforcement will take place in the flood-impacted areas. Parking will be allowed according to the date. If the date is an even number, parking is permitted on the even side of the street. If the date is an odd number, parking is permitted on the odd numbered side of the street. This will continue until further notice.
- ✓ Curfew is still in effect from 8:00pm through 7:00am.
- ✓ Please help remind the public that it is not only unhealthy, but it is also illegal to scavenge from garbage or flood debris that is left at the curb. There have been numerous brochures and information available on the hazards of handling the flood debris without proper clothing such as gloves. This could present health problems for the individual and a safety factor should the flood debris fall on them.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

- ✓ All bridges crossing waterways in Cedar Rapids were inspected after the floods. No significant damage has been revealed to date. Two different firms inspected the Cedar River crossings. To further protect the long term use of the city's bridges, proposals for underwater inspections have been received, and the DOT has been contacted about using their "snooper" truck for further investigation. These underwater inspections will look for undermining and scour, while the "snooper" can get an inspector up close to the underside of the bridge.

## **WATER**

- ✓ Distribution and Service
  - Mains at bridges and creek crossings have been checked.
  - All larger service line valves within the flood zone have been inspected.
  - The 36-inch main north behind Quaker Oaks has been inspected.
  - Approximately 80% of hydrants have been checked. Remaining 20% require additional water to recede or are more difficult to access due to garbage being placed at the curb. This should be completed by the end of the week.
  - Distribution has been checking all homes within the flood zone and listening for leaks. If one is detected, service is called in to complete the shut-off. Approximately 90% of homes have been checked. Service crews are going with strike teams to shut-off homes as required.
- ✓ Water Treatment
  - Normal average daily flow is 38 MGD.
  - The J Avenue Water Plant now has treatment capacity of 33 MGD.
  - The Northwest Water Treatment Plant was started back up June 20<sup>th</sup>. Plant currently has treatment capacity of 7.5 MGD.
  - Storage tanks are maintaining near full capacity.
  - The Lab has been taking extensive water quality samples throughout the flood areas. All bacterial samples have tested safe.
  - The existing access road to Ranney Wells 1 and 2 is being repaired in order to complete repair work as required to get the wells fully functional.
- ✓ The Customer Service Division is now operational. Follow-up calls are being made to customers.

Department Name	Relocation Space
<b>AEGON North</b>	
City Hall Operations**	3851 River Ridge Drive NE
Library	3851 River Ridge Drive NE
Central Fire	3851 River Ridge Drive NE
<b>Westdale Mall</b>	
Parking	former Lerner store
Transit	former Lerner store
Solid Waste	former Lerner store
Assessor	former Limited store
Code Enforcement	former Limited store
Housing/Section 8	former GAP store
<b>Jefferson High School</b>	
Public Works	1243 20th Street SW
Fleet Services	1243 20th Street SW
<b>Other Locations</b>	
Water (W) & Treasurer (T)	1111 Shaver Rd. NE
* Typical Phone/Internet/Photocopy/Printer/Fax for each Department	
**City Hall Operations include: City Manager's Office, Community Development, City Clerk, City Attorney, Finance, Human Resources & Safety	

## UPDATES

The Cedar Rapids Linn County Solid Waste Agency Landfill Site #1 located at 2250 A Street SW in Cedar Rapids opened at 7:00am Tuesday, June 24, 2008. Everyone should expect delays and long waits at all Agency sites due to the immense amount of flood debris being disposed of at this time. Site #1 will only accept disaster generated flood debris. All vehicles must weigh in and out. The compost facility located adjacent to landfill Site #1 remains open.

Landfill Site #2, located at 1954 County Home Road north of Marion, will accept both flood related and non-flood related debris. All individuals and businesses hauling waste themselves must use Site #2.

The hours for both landfill sites and the compost facility will be 7:00am – 7:00pm, seven days per week, until further notice.

For more information please contact the Cedar Rapids Linn County Solid Waste Agency at (319) 377-5290.

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## COUNCIL MEMBERS' CALENDAR

*(Not all meetings are noted. The calendar is **not** an official posting.)*

<b>Monday, June 23</b>	1:00pm	Time Check Neighborhood meeting, ( <i>Jefferson High School</i> )
	5:00pm	Linn County Mayor's meeting, ( <i>Coffee Emporium, 1725 Boyson Rd, Hiawatha</i> )
<b>Tuesday, June 24</b>	Noon	Brown Bag - Legislative Update, ( <i>City Hall North classroom</i> )
<b>Wednesday, June 25</b>	6:00pm	Formal Council meeting, ( <i>Aegon Auditorium, 4333 Edgewood Rd</i> )
<b>Thursday, June 26</b>	5:00pm	Cedar Hills Neighborhood Association meeting, ( <i>St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 4700 Johnson Avenue NW</i> )
	6:30pm	Flood Forum, ( <i>KCRG station</i> )