



# McHenry County Flood Recovery and Clean up Information



Photo courtesy of John Reinst

## **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

**CLEANUP ASSISTANCE:** CRISIS CLEANUP HOTLINE 800-451-1954

**FLOOD ASSISTANCE:** AMERICAN RED CROSS 847-220-7495

**GENERAL QUESTIONS:** 211

**OFFER HELP:** VOLUNTEER CENTER 815-344-4483

<http://www.co.mchenry.il.us/Flood>

## ***BUILDING CLEANOUT AND REPAIRS***

Flood damaged personal items and building materials should be removed from habitable structures as soon as possible to reduce the chance of mold growth. This includes removal of damaged carpeting and drywall, which can proceed without permit approvals. Because of the flood, most repair activities will require building and stormwater management permits. This includes the replacement of damaged carpeting and drywall. Permits are also required for other repairs including, but not limited to, structural, electrical, plumbing, and the replacement of damaged HVAC equipment and water heaters. Any site grading or site modifications to address flood damage or erosion may also require stormwater reviews and permits.

Contact your local building department for permit requirements. If you live in unincorporated McHenry County or are intending to make site modifications, call 815-334-4560 for permit requirements. Be sure to ask if there will be a waiver of the permit fees for repair of flood damage.

## ***DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS***

McHenry County needs to compile detailed information about the impact of the storms and flooding to submit an application for FEMA federal assistance. Please assist us with the damage assessment process by completing a flood damage report online at [www.co.mchenry.il.us/Flood](http://www.co.mchenry.il.us/Flood) or by calling the McHenry County Planning & Development at 815-334-4560. Damage assessment teams will be going through the affected areas on Thursday, July 27 and Friday, July 28 to complete the assessment reports as well.

## ***DEBRIS REMOVAL***

Because jurisdictions may have different guidelines, please contact your township or municipality with questions regarding the disposal of flood-damaged items. They can provide you with waste hauler contact names and numbers and provide you with information regarding any special instructions or costs associated with the disposal. For a list of township and municipality contacts, visit the Flood Information Headquarters at [www.co.mchenry.il.us/flood](http://www.co.mchenry.il.us/flood).



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CRISIS CLEANUP HOTLINE 800-451-1954

## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

If a private water well cap is submerged, it could be contaminated. Free water testing is available; sterile water sampling bottles are available at the Woodstock and Crystal Lake Health Dept. locations. Kits will also be available during the open hours of the McHenry County Flood Respite Center (Nunda Township Office) and at the Multi Agency Resource Center (MARC) this Friday and Saturday. Use bottled water until drinking water is tested. Onsite wastewater treatment systems, which have been submerged, should be evaluated by a qualified septic system contractor, particularly if the system includes electrical/mechanical components. This should be done prior to putting the system back into use. Wear protective clothing when clearing flood-damaged materials. More information regarding debris removal, flood-related safety and recovery is available at [www.mcdh.info](http://www.mcdh.info) and [www.co.mchenry.il.us/flood](http://www.co.mchenry.il.us/flood).

## **BEWARE OF SCAMS!**

- Visit Attorney General's Consumer Fraud website:  
[www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/consumers/index.html](http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/consumers/index.html).
- Ask any company proposing to do work for you for referrals and **CALL THOSE REFERRALS**.
- Contact the Illinois Secretary of State, Better Business Bureau and your insurance company to confirm the company is legitimate and has a good reputation.
- Get multiple quotes for repairs. Insist on a written contract detailing the work to be completed; make sure a warranty for materials and labor is included.
- Do not provide any payment until a contract is signed.
- Be cautious of companies charging to assist with insurance claim processing.
- Consider hiring an attorney to review the contract (if a major repair).
- Make sure all necessary permits are obtained; get work inspected; make final payment after work is completed and passes inspection.
- Report any suspicious companies or individuals to local law enforcement agency or State's Attorney's Office 815-334-4159.

## **PROPERTY RECORDS**

In response to the devastating floods of July 2017, the McHenry County Recorder's Office will produce single copies of property records at no charge to those residents and businesses located in the areas affected by the recent flood. The program will run through July 31, 2018. Requests will be handled on a first come, first served basis and will be provided as soon as administratively possible. Some limitations may apply. Please allow several weeks for delivery.

## **ASSESSMENTS**

Property owners with damaged homes or buildings may be eligible for a decrease in the assessed value of properties which could result in lower property taxes for 2018 tax bill. Damage may include structural damage to foundation or walls, flooding in the living area, or flooding of central heating/air conditioning units. Notify your Township Assessor of the property's destruction, uninhabitable condition or unfitness for occupancy or normal use. For more information, contact the McHenry County Assessments Office at 815-334-4290.



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## Fact Sheet: Storm, Flood Debris and Disaster Areas

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### Dealing with Debris:

After floodwaters recede and storms have passed, debris remains that can cause serious pollution problems and potentially result in ill health effects. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) has developed this fact sheet for municipalities and residents to outline what you can do to ensure that the waste and debris are disposed of in a safe and environmentally sound manner. Please follow these guidelines to dispose of the debris. Any questions about which materials can be landfilled, burned or recycled will be answered by calling:

*Landfill waste material – 217-524-3300*  
*Open burning waste – 217-782-2113*  
*Immediate emergency – 800-782-7860*  
*Outdoor chemical contamination – 217-782-3637*

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### Recycling Storm and Flood Waste:

Household appliances, also known as “white goods,” can be recycled by taking them to a local scrap dealer, who will remove potentially harmful components. For information on scrap dealers in your area check the yellow pages or call a local appliance retailer.

Tires must be disposed at a registered commercial processing facility. Units of local government may accumulate used and waste tires recovered via storm/flood cleanup. It is important to drain all used tires of standing water and to store them in a manner that prevents the further accumulation of water. Contact the Illinois EPA at 217-782-2224 for further information and possible assistance. In addition, we encourage other recyclable materials to be separated and recycled such as glass, metal debris and plastics.

### Household Hazardous Waste Disposal:

Household hazardous waste (HHW) and other chemical products should be disposed of properly to avoid health and pollution risks. The following long-term facilities are available for disposal of household hazardous waste:

**Naperville:** 156 Fort Hill Drive (north of Naperville Public Works at 180 Fort Hill Drive) · 630-420-6095  
Saturday: 9 am - 2 pm, Sunday: 9 am - 2 pm  
<http://www.naperville.il.us/services/garbage-and-recycling/household-hazardous-waste-facility/>

**City of Chicago:** 1150 N. North Branch on Goose Island · 312-744-7672  
Tuesday: 7 am - noon, Thursday: 2 pm - 7 pm, First Saturday of each month: 8 am - 3 pm  
[https://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/streets/supp\\_info/how\\_it\\_works.html](https://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/streets/supp_info/how_it_works.html)

**Rockford:** 3333 Kishwaukee, Rock River Reclamation District · 815-987-5570  
Saturday: 8 am - 4 pm and Sunday: Noon - 4 pm  
<http://www.knib.org/recycling/green-guide/household-hazardous-waste-site/>

**Lake County:** The Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) currently operates a long-term household chemical waste collection program. Information and a collection schedule can be found at [www.swalco.org](http://www.swalco.org), or by calling 847-336-9340.

For questions concerning the HHW, please call the Illinois EPA Waste Reduction Unit at 217-524-3300.

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**Landfilling Storm and Flood Waste:**

You may dispose of the following items in your local landfill: lumber, sandbags, plastic sheeting, shingles, insulation, animal carcasses, grain, animal feed, food, carpet, furniture, metal debris and machinery. Additionally, you may want to check with the operator of your local landfill to see if trees, branches, brush and other debris similar to landscape waste may be temporarily accepted there for disposal and, if so, for how long. Landscape compost facilities may also accept this type of material as long as it is not mixed with other types of storm debris.

**Flood Water Sand Re-use and Disposal:**

Flood water sand may be contaminated with human and animal waste, oil and gasoline residue, and farm chemicals such as fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides.

- Sand or sandbags that did not contact floodwater can be reused without restrictions;
- Sand or sandbags that contacted floodwater should not be reused in ways that would involve direct human contact, such as in children’s play areas or in residential gardening;
- Sand or sandbags that are visually contaminated, with oil or fecal matter, for example, should be disposed as waste at a landfill.

Visual inspection of the sand as well as local emergency responder knowledge can be used to assist in determining if sand has come into contact with flood waters. When in doubt, it is generally safer to assume that the sand has come into contact with flood waters.

**Flood Sediments:**

Care should be taken not to cause nuisance conditions in removing and accumulating flood sediment. If the sediments are contaminated and removed from the property at which they were found after the flood, these materials must be disposed of in a permitted landfill.

**Sealed Drum and Propane Tank Disposal:**

Sealed drums, propane tanks and other pressurized gas cylinders with unknown contents should not be handled by untrained persons. Please notify the Illinois EPA Office of Emergency Response at 217-782-3637 or Illinois Emergency Management Agency at 800-782-7860. To dispose of propane tanks, contact the nearest propane distributor. Propane tanks have serial numbers that will allow for identification of tank owners and locations.

**Electronic Waste Disposal:**

Most electronics items are banned from landfills. A list of Registered Residential E-Waste Collection Locations can be found at <http://epadata.epa.state.il.us/land/eWaste/collection-sites.asp>. Please call the collector in advance to make sure the item(s) you have will be accepted at the collection site.

**Electronics Banned from Illinois Landfills:**

- Televisions Monitors
- Printers Computers (laptop, notebook, tablet, desk-top)
- Electronic Keyboards Facsimile Machines
- Videocassette Recorders Portable Digital Music Players
- Digital Video Disc Players & Recorders Video Game Consoles
- Small Scale Servers Scanners
- Electronic Mice Digital Converter Boxes
- Cable Receivers Satellite Receivers
- Cell phones

Information is available at <http://www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/waste-management/electronics-recycling/index>.



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**Environmental Concerns About Oil from Electrical Transformers on Downed Power Poles:**

After storms, electrical transformers on downed power poles have the potential to leak oil into the environment. Some transformers still contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), which are persistent and toxic environmental pollutants. If you see downed transformers, please alert local officials who can then contact the appropriate electrical utility company about disposal or cleanup. If you observe leaks from a transformer, you may contact an Illinois EPA Regional office during business hours at <http://www.epa.illinois.gov/about-us/locations/regional-offices/index> or call Illinois Emergency Management Agency at 800-782-7860 or 217-782-7860 any time.

**Drinking Water Concerns After Storms and Floods:**

**Public Water Supplies:** Be sure to listen to special announcements about local boil orders that may be in effect regarding public water supplies. If a boil order has been issued for your water supply, boil your water for five minutes. Water used to make ice, brush teeth, or wash dishes must also be boiled. As an alternative to boiling water, bottled water and juices can be used for drinking purposes.

**Private Wells:** Your local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health regional office will provide you with information and assistance in testing your well. Additional tips on safety of private wells may be found at: <http://www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/drinking-water/private-well-users/index>.

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**Open Burning of Storm and Flood Related Disaster Debris:**

**Disaster Debris includes the following materials:** Tree limbs, brush, natural wood and plant debris, agricultural waste (bags, cartons, dry bedding, structural materials and crop residue), canvas sandbags, clean wood building debris, and lumber.

**Note: Asbestos and Tires CANNOT be burned in any situation.**

**Open burning of Storm/Flood Related (Disaster) Debris may occur under the following conditions:**

- When the Governor of Illinois or the President of the United States has declared a major disaster and local laws and regulations have been met.

**Note:** Some open burning requires a permit from the Illinois EPA and some does not.

**The follow examples of open burning of Disaster Debris DO NOT require a state open burn permit:**

- Tree limbs, brush, natural wood, and plant debris may be burned on the site where they are generated and at community sites under the supervision of the local government.
- Agricultural waste, as defined above, may be burned on the site where they are generated.

*Please note, State Law does not override local prohibitions or limitations on open burning.*

**Burning of canvas sandbags, clean wood building debris, and lumber DOES require a state open burn permit.**

The following websites contain more detailed information on permitting and an application for open burn permits.

<http://www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/forms/air-permits/open-burning/index>

<http://www.epa.state.il.us/air/permits/openburn/open-burning-disaster-area.pdf>

For more information regarding open burn permitting please contact the Illinois EPA at 217-782-2113.