



MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 11, 2008
Contact: Tom Schlueter (630) 444-3098
(630) 417-9729 cell

**Health Department offers tips to stay healthy and safe
during and after a flood**

With the Fox River levels continuing to rise, the Kane County Health Department is wants to offer guidance related to residents' health and safety.

Well and septic systems can be contaminated during a flood. If the safety of your water supply is in doubt, be sure to use bottled water for drinking, preparing food, making ice, hand washing, washing dishes, brushing teeth and preparing baby formula. Do not eat any food that has come in contact with the potentially contaminated water.

If there is standing sewage in your yard, the health department recommends roping off the area for at least a week after the water has receded and keeping children and pets away from that area. Minimize household water use if your septic system is flooded. Use rubber gloves to collect all non-biodegradable items for disposal.

The Kane County Health Department has specific instructions on how to disinfect a well and is providing free drinking water sample analysis for any wells suspected of being contaminated due to flooding. You may obtain sample bottles and instructions for disinfection of wells from the Health Department at the following locations:

(MORE)

- 1240 N. Highland Ave., Suite 5
Aurora, IL, 60506
- 115 S. Grove Ave, Suite 209
Elgin, IL, 60120

Additionally, the health department recommends individuals take following precautions to prevent the spread of waterborne disease:

- Wash your hands with plenty of soap and clean, warm running water
 - Before preparing or eating food
 - Before handling a baby
 - Before smoking or any other activity that involves touching something that may enter a person's mouth. Make sure children do the same.
 - After toilet use
 - After handling items contaminated with floodwater or sewage

Sandbags are presently being staged in the Village of Hampshire, the Dundee Township Highway garage, and the East Dundee Public Works garage. The Kane County Office of Emergency Management has a public sand bag pile at the intersection of Grove Avenue and Rockwell in Valley View for those who need sandbag in that area.

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.

(MORE)

- 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.
- Do not allow children to play in floodwater or areas that have been flooded.

More information about preparing for and dealing with flooding issues can be found at www.kanehealth.com.

#