

TO: MEDIA OUTLETS

FROM: JOHN W. JONES

REF: NEXT STEPS

September 24, 2008

I just returned from the Governor's press conference in Hammond –La Porte County has received a declaration for individual and business assistance.

FEDERAL STEPS

- Please begin to tell flood victims to register with FEMA for assistance by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or by going on line at www.fema.gov and clicking on “applying for disaster assistance”. We will discontinue taking local questionnaires and urge all those to register with FEMA. This includes those who have called and filled out a questionnaire and those who have not yet called our offices.
- Any emergency sheltering needs for any displaced individuals will come as a result of a FEMA request.
- Please see attached press release for additional information.

LOCAL ACTION STEPS

- First of all--Thank you! To all citizens for completing the advanced flood forms (IDHS Flood Questionnaire) which helped us qualify for assistance.
- Please forward any questionnaires you may be holding to my office or to Paul Young (La Porte County) as appropriate.
- A personal letter from city officials is being sent to all applicants who filed notice (questionnaire) with the city to contact FEMA for next steps.
- Starting tomorrow the Red Cross will open separated shower facilities at the Trail Creek Marina located at 7th and Michigan Blvd. for families who are without hot water. A common damage reported was the loss of hot water heaters in the flood. The showers will be available from 5pm-7pm each night through Sunday at which time a needs assessment will determine the continued availability. The Red Cross and security will be on site.
- Tomorrow the Red Cross will deliver clean-up kits to city residents in need.
- The Health Department will issue any Health statements as required.
- A press release will go out this afternoon with more detailed instructions for citizens; see enclosed release.
- We encourage the elderly or disabled citizens who are unable to remove the water from their homes to contact their township trustee to request additional assistance. The Michigan Township Trustee is Mary Lombard and she may be contacted by calling (219) 874-5201. The

Coolspring Township Trustee is Dennis Metheny and he may be contacted by calling (219) 872-2181. These individuals will still need to register for assistance by contacting FEMA and may need assistance or guidance in doing so.

- We are identifying computer locations the public can use to register on-line. The public sites presently include:
 - The Senior Center; Monday – Thursday 8-4
 - The M.C. Public Library Reference Center Monday-Thursday 9am-8pm; Fri-Sat; 9a-6p; Sunday, 1p-5p.
 - The Coolspring Township Trustee’s Office at 1411 S. Woodland Ave. Suite A, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am-2pm.
 - The Michigan Township Trustee’s Office at 2601 E. Michigan Blvd. Monday –Friday except closed Wednesday from 8:30 am-3:30 pm.
- The Health department is offering free well testing. Home owners need to go to the Health Department in Michigan City or La Porte to pick up a bottle for the test sample.