

Current Situation

St. Charles County is experiencing what is currently the second highest flood levels in our history. Homes, businesses, agricultural land and public areas along the Mississippi and Missouri rivers are inundated with floodwater and many area roadways are impassable. The County's Regional Emergency Management Agency and the National Weather Service-St. Louis have issued a Flood Warning for these areas (the triangle from Highway 79 to the confluence of the rivers and Highway 370, as well as several locations along the Missouri River near Augusta, Defiance and St. Charles) until further notice.

Due to flooded conditions throughout the Metro Area and elsewhere along the river basins, these water levels are expected to remain high for a long period of time. As a result, a large percentage of structures in these areas are affected by floodwaters, and there is little way to determine the extent of damage until waters subside. In addition to residents and businessowners unable to access their properties, roadways in these flood zones are impassable with water/debris and may have been damaged. Response agencies will not be able to determine the extent of this damage until water levels decrease.

For updates and historical perspective on river levels, visit
https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/area.php?wfo=LSX&hydro_type=0&hsa_type=1#river17.

Donations Management

Requests for assistance have been made through municipal Emergency Management agencies, the County's Regional Emergency Management Agency and service organizations. So as not to create additional problems from the collection, inventory, packaging and distribution of these materials, it is recommended that coordination of this activity be maintained in conjunction with these agencies and the St. Charles County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) program. Independent collections and distribution of donated materials without coordination will likely duplicate efforts and take resources away from needed activities. Because of this, unsolicited donations — specifically of clothing or other used materials — should not be accepted. When specific donation requests emerge, the COAD will call for assistance.

Volunteer Management

Due to the high water levels, all flood prevention/mitigation activities have been put on hold at this time. The American Red Cross has opened a temporary shelter with volunteer assistance and several agencies are assisting with distribution of meals to affected residents, responders and others. Additional organizations have begun plans for helping homeowners with cleaning activities, once that opportunity arises. Once floodwaters subside, additional volunteer assistance will be needed to help affected communities.

Requests for individual volunteers and management of their activities will be coordinated through the COAD or an assigned agency.

Health Concerns

Floodwaters can contain many contaminants that may be harmful to people, including bacteria, hazardous materials, debris and more. The St. Charles County Department of Public Health can assist responders and homeowners that require tetanus vaccinations prior to work in or around floodwaters. Interested responder agencies and volunteer groups should contact the department's Emergency Response Planner Nick Kohlberg at 636-949-7554. Individuals needing vaccination should schedule an appointment with the Immunization Clinic by calling 636-949-1857. Immunization Clinic nurses can confirm an individual's vaccination record at the time of the scheduled appointment, as recommendations call for a tetanus booster at least every 10 years.

Important Contacts:

St. Charles County Regional Emergency Management (636-949-3023, ema@sccmo.org or www.sccmo.org/EmergencyManagement)

St. Charles County Flood Tips and Information – www.sccmo.org/Flood

St. Charles County Department of Public Health - (636-949-7554)

St. Charles County Department of Public Health – Immunization Clinic (636-949-1857 or www.sccmo.org/Immunizations)

St. Charles County Division of Humane Services – Animal Control assistance (636-949-7387)

Community Council of St. Charles County – Coordinated Entry assistance (call United Way 211)

American Red Cross Shelter Assistance – (314-516-2700)

- RESIDENTIAL ASSISTANCE –Discussions regarding the formation of a Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC) for this flood event and potential locations/dates for this service will begin once we are better able to assess needs and possible damages. MARC enables affected individuals to visit one location and collect available assistance information from all participating response agencies.
- DISASTER DECLARATION PROCESS – Although local and state disaster alerts have been issued, a Federal Disaster Declaration is still pending. This declaration cannot be made by FEMA until a visible assessment of potential damages is completed. Since most of the impacted areas are currently submerged, a true assessment of the damage cannot be completed at this time. However, because of the extent of this event and the likelihood of the water to remain for a long period, there is discussion of allowing aerial assessments now that could be improved once waters recede. Additional information on the Federal Disaster Declaration Process is available at <https://sema.dps.mo.gov/recover/federal-disaster-declaration-process.php>