

For more information, contact:
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 12, 2020

Storm Response Update

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA – August 12, 2020 – The City of Cedar Rapids continues storm response activities. Priorities today include working with partner agencies to identify shelter locations, volunteer coordination, and food. The City is working alongside the Linn County Emergency Management Agency, the Red Cross, Salvation Army, and United Way 2-1-1. Additional information will be released as details are finalized. Residents can find the most up-to-date information on our website: cedar-rapids.org

Tree Debris Removal

The City recognizes that many, many residents have experienced extensive tree damage and are dealing with significant levels of debris. Contractors, City and DOT crews will begin the process today of picking up tree debris that is located in the public right-of-way. This will be a multi-process endeavor; contractors will move slowly through the entire community and will return to each property multiple times to remove debris. They will collect whatever they can at each property. Contractors will remove as much debris as possible in the public right-of-way (area between the street and the sidewalk).

Residents can help with cleanup efforts:

- Keep tree debris separate from all other items.
- Household rubble such as glass, shingles, gutters, etc. can be piled together, separate from tree debris.
- Depending on the severity of debris damage, when possible cut tree limbs into 10 feet long sections. This will help expedite cleanup efforts for crews.

Garbage Collection to Resume Thursday

Collection of garbage only will resume on Thursday, August 13. Find important details regarding cart placement and spoiled food disposal on our website: http://www.cedar-rapids.org/news_detail_T6_R1346.php

State of Iowa Preliminary Damage Assessment Survey

Residents and commercial property owners are encouraged to report damage to their property (homes, garages, sheds, etc.) by using an online form created by the State of Iowa. This form does NOT take the place of an insurance claim. The report serves as another assessment tool to help the City's Building Services department quickly identify areas that sustained damage. **To access the form:**

<http://www.cedar-rapids.org/report-damage/>

Safety Concerns

The safety of our citizens is our top priority. Portable generators need to be placed at least 20 feet from your home. Make sure the exhaust from the generator is not pointed towards your home, as carbon monoxide can be a significant issue. Area hospitals have received several patients that have been

injured during storm clean-up, including injuries from chainsaws. Proper personal protective equipment must be worn when operating the saw, which includes hand, foot, leg, eye, face, hearing and head protection. Do not wear loose-fitting clothing. Be careful that the trunk or tree limbs will not bind against the saw. Watch for branches under tension, they may spring out when cut. Also, do not burn debris or damaged trees as it is both illegal and unsafe. The City will be collecting both debris and damaged trees.

Curfew

A citywide curfew is in effect from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. and continuing until further notice. **Residents can travel to and from their employment during the curfew.** Police officers will be patrolling neighborhoods. We are asking for residents to stay at home for their safety so streets can be cleared of debris and fallen utilities.

****Issued Previously****

Road Clearing

Many roads are still closed or partially closed. Public Works crews continue to clear roads using plows and other equipment to help move debris off the roadway. As a reminder, the roads are being cleared in a prioritized route similar to emergency snow response – main arterials that connect major sections of the city will be addressed first, and then crews will begin moving into residential neighborhoods. There are still many unsafe situations with debris blocking roads and utility lines down. Please use caution if you need to go out – drive slowly, yield at partial closures. Please do not drive through barricades, they are in place for life safety reasons. If possible, please stay home or remove cars parked on the roadway to assist crews with clearing roads.

Traffic Signals & Signs

We have sustained heavy damage to many traffic signals, which are down, turned, damaged, or without power. Many signals are dark or operating on generators. Many intersections are also missing stop signs. As you approach intersections – be aware signals may be down and signs may be missing. **Treat intersections as all-way stops.** Stop completely at the intersection and proceed with caution when it is your turn. Traffic Engineering crews continue to dispatch additional generators and assess damage.

Drinking Water

Cedar Rapids water remains safe to consume. Please contact customer service at 319-286-5900 if you see water bubbling in the street due to a water main break.

Transit

Transit service is suspended until further notice.

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