

STORM RESPONSE RESOURCES



Thursday, August 27-Friday, August 28

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BRIEFS

- Daily radio briefings will be discontinued after Friday, August 28. Information will be provided at Cedar-Rapids.org and on social media accounts listed above.
- The cooling station located at the US Cellular Center will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily for the remainder of the week.
- The debris site at the corner of F Avenue and 1st Street NW will change hours of operation to 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. beginning Tuesday, September 1. The site is anticipated to be open through September 5.
- Continue to call the Emergency Volunteer Center at 224-406-1366 for volunteer needs.
- The Salvation Army has resumed normal breakfast and lunch services at 1000 C Avenue NW. The Neighborhood Resource Centers will distribute donations of shelf-stable food items from HACAP, the Red Cross, and individuals for as long as supplies last.
- Recycling collection has resumed. Yard waste will be collected starting the week of Monday, August 31. Place carts in the street and not in the alley at this time.
- HACAP assists all Iowans with overcoming disaster-related hardship (no income cap). Disaster case managers help you create a disaster recovery plan and provide guidance, advice, and referrals. Contact HACAP at 319-393-7811 for an application.
- Linn County Emergency Management has closed the donation warehouse located at 4200 C Street SW in Cedar Rapids. The remaining inventory will be distributed to local non-profits. The Wellington Heights Community Center is accepting donations of non-perishable food, toiletries, charcoal, water, and ice at 392 15th Street SE.

SEVERE WEATHER

Linn County Emergency Management is actively following the severe weather potential for Friday afternoon into the overnight hours and plans to sound the outdoor warning sirens if winds gust are sustained at more than 40 miles per hour. This decision is based on the amount of loose debris still present on the ground and hanging debris still in the trees that has the potential to cause damage or injury when blown around.

Residents are asked to take note of their surroundings when outdoors to ensure safe distances are maintained from loose, hanging debris that may fall at any time. Debris already on the ground should be moved away from structures to minimize the risk for property damage.

It is important to keep storm drains clear of debris and clogged leaves that will block water. If you're able, please rake or shovel debris away from drains and inlets to reduce the risk of street flooding if heavy rains occur.

HOT FOOD WAIVER

Residents of Linn County who receive electronic benefits for food purchases can use them to purchase hot food such as deli counter food, pizza, and other hot meals at participating Linn County retailers through September 21.

The Iowa Department of Human Services announced the temporary rule change to assist families recovering from the derecho. The change applies to recipients of Electronic Benefits Transfer and Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer funds. A map showing participating retailers is available on the DHS website at dhs.iowa.gov.

INDIVIDUAL FEMA ASSISTANCE

Residents of Linn County can apply for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Individual Assistance Program. Assistance can come in the form of grants, low-cost loans, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster. Apply for assistance by calling 1-800-621-3362 or 1-800-462-7585 for TTY users. Users of 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS) may call 1-800-621-3362. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. CST, seven days a week, until further notice. Applications can also be submitted at www.DisasterAssistance.gov.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Residents of Linn County who are out of work due to the derecho can apply to Iowa Workforce Development between now and September 24 to determine if they qualify for special unemployment benefits from the state. Requirements include:

- Must be an unemployed or self-unemployed worker whose unemployment was caused as a direct result of the storm
- Must be a U.S. national or a qualified alien; and
- Does not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits from any state; and
- Must have worked or was self-employed in, or was scheduled to begin work or self-employment in one of the counties affected by the storm
- Must establish that the work or self-employment that can no longer be performed was the primary source of income

People can also qualify for the disaster benefits if they:

- Can no longer work or perform services because of physical damage or destruction to their place of employment as a direct result of a disaster
- Cannot perform work or self-employment because of an injury caused as a direct result of the disaster
- Became the breadwinner or major support of a household because of the death of the head of the household

The benefit can cover up to 27 weeks of derecho-related unemployment, which will be re-evaluated week-to-week.

PERMITS AND CONTRACTORS

Information on the permit process, what type of projects require permits, and where to find reputable contractors is available on the City's website: www.cedar-rapids.org/homerepair. To verify your contractor is licensed, call the Building Services Department at 319-286-5929, Monday – Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

FINANCIAL DONATIONS

Financial donations are being accepted by United Way, Red Cross, Salvation Army, and the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation. Links to information about the funds are available at Cedar-Rapids.org, on the storm recovery information page.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE

- A grant to help individuals affected by the derecho storm with mortgage payment assistance or rental costs due to displacement has been set up by the Iowa Association of REALTORS® (IAR) and the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR). Up to \$1,000 per applicant can be awarded for individuals in the following scenarios:
 - A homeowner with a mortgage that was displaced due to damage of their home
 - A homeowner with a mortgage living in their home without power due to the storm damage
 - A renter that was displaced due to damage of their apartment building
- Iowans can get assistance with rent and mortgage payments under expanded eligibility for the COVID-19 Iowa Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention program. Those who previously received \$600 in weekly unemployment benefits can now apply for assistance. Those previously denied assistance due to unemployment benefits may re-apply. Renters and homeowners at risk of eviction or foreclosure due to a COVID-19 related loss of income since March 17, and who meet income and other eligibility criteria, may qualify. Household income at the time of application may not exceed 80 percent of the median family income, which varies by household size and county. Up to four months of rental assistance (\$3,200 maximum) may be awarded, or up to four months of mortgage payment assistance (\$3,000 maximum) including manufactured home rent and lot rent. For complete details and to apply, go to IowaHousingRecovery.com.

RED CROSS ASSISTANCE

The Red Cross is offering recovery financial assistance to households whose homes were destroyed or sustained major damage in the derecho. To be eligible, households must apply for the program and meet all of the requirements including:

- Primary residence is located in a confirmed disaster-impacted geographic area
- Applicant is the head of household and is not listed as a household member on any other Immediate Assistance application
- Applicant's primary residence suffered major damage or was destroyed

Heads of household are encouraged to call 1-800-REDCROSS, and select prompt 4. The application requires a valid text enabled phone number and/or an email address for processing.

