A COMMUNITY’S RESPONSE TO THE 2017 FLOODING

Emergency Management
Isabella County

Central Michigan District Health Department
Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities
Date: Thu, Jun 22, 2017 at 12:50 PM

Thunderstorms Likely Thursday Evening/Overnight
Isolated Severe Storms Possible

* Storms may develop overhead this evening around 8 PM.

* Additional storms may move in from Wisconsin late tonight after 11 PM.

* Isolated damaging wind gusts and large hail are possible this evening.

* Repeated storms especially areas north of I-96 could produce rainfall amounts over 1 or 2 inches, cause water ponding on roadways.
RADAR ESTIMATED TOTALS AT 2 A.M. ON JUNE 23
24 HOUR RAIN TOTAL AS OF 8 A.M. ON JUNE 23
48 HOUR RAIN TOTAL AS OF 8 A.M. ON JUNE 23
ACTIVATING AND REPORTING TO THE EOC……

• County Emergency Manager received a call from 911 Central Dispatch
• Isabella EOC was activated at approximately 5 a.m. on 6/23/17.
• CMDHD Emergency Preparedness Coordinator reported to the EOC upon request from the county emergency manager at 1:13 p.m. on 6/23/17.
• Press Conference took place, facilitated by the Isabella County Administrator/Controller (and designated Public Information Officer) at 2:19 p.m. on 6/23/17.
• CMDHD Health Officer reported to the EOC at 3:02 p.m. on 6/23/17.
• The EPC, Health Officer, and EH Director represented CMDHD in the EOC between 6/23/17 and 7/5/17.
TWO COUNTIES IN CMDHD’S JURISDICTION AT THE SAME TIME

• Isabella County fully activated their Emergency Operations Center.
• Gladwin County partially activated their Emergency Operations Center.
OVER 100 ROADS COMPROMISED OR WASHED OUT
MANY HOMES SURROUNDED BY WATER
WATER, WATER, WATER  (WELL WATER TESTING)

• Well water testing
  • Multi-Agency Resource Center was opened in Isabella County for one day. 68 water test kits were distributed.
  • 25 water test kits were distributed through the health department branch office in Isabella County.
  • Initial estimates of 55 water wells being affected (from aerial footage) on 6/24/17.
    • County Damage Assessment Teams covered 16 townships, 3 villages, 1 city, 1 university, 1 sovereign nation
  • Sample fee waived for Isabella & Midland, then came request from Gladwin.
CAN YOU FIND THE WELL?
THERE IT IS......
WATER, WATER, WATER (WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT)
WATER, WATER, WATER (BEACH SAMPLING)

• Beach sampling
  • At the beginning of sampling season (3 weeks in) so we didn’t have a 30 day geomean to reference.
  • Areas that were high before the flood became higher.
  • Areas that weren’t high became high.
WATER, WATER, WATER (RIVER ADVISORIES)

• River advisories
  • County was looking to public health for guidance on body contact with the river.
  • Three kayakers on the river on Saturday that had to be rescued.
  • First warning sign vs regular beach advisory sign for high levels of E. Coli
  • Closing a river is not routine whereas beach advisories are routine.
  • Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe samples along the river.
  • Concerns about kids wanting to “play” in the flood waters, rivers, etc.
  • Businesses (canoe liveries) wanted to put people in the water – city/county parks
ISLAND PARK IN MT PLEASANT
FOOD SERVICE

• Helicopter footage (aerial photos) from missing kayakers
• Made phone calls to facilities that were closest to the river — no impact; no power loss; no sewer back-up.
PUBLIC INFORMATION

• More than 65 phone calls came into Environmental Health (Isabella) in the two weeks following the flood.

• More than 17 phone calls came into Environmental Health (Gladwin) in the weeks following the flood.

• CMDHD and the City of Mt. Pleasant Division of Public Works issued 3 press releases regarding the sanitary sewer overflow.

• CMDHD contributed information for 13 press releases issued by Isabella County in the days following the flood – numerous press conferences and individual interviews by county PIO.

• CMDHD made 23 posts (or shared others’ posts) on FB between 6/23/17 and 9/7/17.
AGENCY COORDINATION & COMMUNICATION (INSIDE AND OUTSIDE)

• All functions of the EOC
• State EOC and CHECC
• Internal updates to staff
• Coordinated public information plan from the beginning – all messages were released in one press release by all entities.
• Who are your partners?
SUCCESSES AND LESSONS LEARNED – PUBLIC HEALTH

Successes:

• “Three-deep” is the rule.
• Our Health Officer has an EH background.
• Our staff are trained in ICS.
• Staff trained in WebEOC/MI-CIMS.

Challenges:

• Have a plan for tracking staff time and activities (ICS 214)
• New system for notifying staff of office closure
INDIVIDUAL THINGS TO CONSIDER OVERALL

- Describe the types of homes impacted
- Average depth of the water in the structures and severity
- What happens if the government doesn’t help?
- Unmet needs
- Lack of temporary housing

- Know special populations
- Primary language is Chinese
- Try to track location of displaced families early.
- Compounding? Vehicles damage and no public transportation
- Were furnaces and water heaters impacted?
- Boil water orders issued or utility interruptions
THANK YOU!

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Central Michigan District Health Department

&

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Isabella County