

Media Release



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From: Woodford County Zoning Department
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For Immediate Release

RESIDENTS IN WOODFORD COUNTY WITH FLOOD DAMAGE REMINDED OF PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

As property owners in unincorporated Woodford County begin clean-up and repairs following recent flooding, the Woodford County Zoning Department is reminding residents to obtaining permits before repairing or rebuilding flood-damaged structures.

Permits must be obtained for any construction or development activity in a floodplain area, including the repair or reconstruction of structures damaged by flooding.

Special conditions apply to buildings in which the total cost of repairs is 50 percent or more of the structure's pre-flood market value. If a building is found to be damaged 50 percent or more, regulations require that repairs not begin until compliance with the local floodplain ordinance is demonstrated. In some cases, that may require elevating or flood-proofing the structure to reduce the potential for future flood damage.

Repair costs must be calculated by assuming the building will be fully repaired to its pre-damaged condition, even if the owner decides to do less. The total cost calculation must include structural materials, finish materials and labor, even if the owner chooses to do his or her own repairs. Woodford County also tracks cumulative damages caused by multiple flood events.

State and federal assistance may be available to property owners to reduce the chances of future flood damage. Mitigation assistance may cover costs of relocation, or for elevating or purchasing flood-damaged structures. Residents with a flood insurance policy may also be eligible to obtain up to \$30,000 to protect a structure from future flood damage.

Property owners and residents with flood-damaged buildings should contact Woodford County Zoning for more information on repair and reconstruction permits.

For additional information to protect yourself and your family, visit the Illinois Department of Public Health website at <http://www.idph.state.il.us/floodinfo/index.htm>.

For more information on Floodplain issues, visit Building and Zoning department website: Woodford County Zoning Department, www.woodford-county.org