



FEMA

Region V - Congressional Affairs
312-408-4427
536 S. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60605

Congressional Advisory: FEMA Urges Caution Following Severe Storms

After severe storms and tornadoes impacted central and northern Illinois yesterday, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Region V office urges all residents to remain vigilant, especially for potential power outages and dangerous road conditions as a result of downed power lines and debris. Our thoughts are with residents as they begin the recovery process.

- At this time, there have been no requests for FEMA disaster assistance for the severe weather that occurred yesterday.
- FEMA Regional Administrator Andrew Velasquez III remains in contact with Illinois Emergency Management Agency Director, James Joseph regarding impacts in the state.
- FEMA's Regional Response Coordination Center is at Level 3 (enhanced watch status) and the Illinois Emergency Operations Center is at full activation.
- FEMA has deployed a Liaison Officer to the State's Emergency Operations center for technical support to the state's response efforts.
- FEMA Region V has placed its Incident Management Assistance Teams on standby and are ready to deploy if requested.

Here's what people can do to begin recovering from the storm:

- Residents facing a life threatening situation are urged to immediately dial 9-1-1 or your local emergency response number.
- If your home has suffered damage, contact your insurance agent to file a claim.
- Be careful when entering any structure that has been damaged. If you suspect damage to water, gas, electric, or sewer lines, contact authorities.
- Wear sturdy shoes or boots, long sleeves and gloves when handling or walking on or near debris.

- Do not touch downed power lines or objects in contact with downed lines. Report electrical hazards to the utility company or local authorities.
- Use battery-powered lights, if possible, rather than candles due to the fire hazard.
- Make a list of damaged or lost items and include their purchase date and value with receipts, and place with the inventory you took prior to the storm. Some damaged items may require disposal, so keep photographs of these items.
- In many parts of the Midwest, basement flooding can occur when there are heavy rains in a short amount of time. Individuals whose homes are flooded/flooding should:
 - Document damages and keep track of expenses incurred;
 - Contact their insurance company to report damage/file a claim;
 - With extreme caution, take actions available to limit the damage to personal items such as remove them from the basement or raise them off the floor.
- To learn more about what to do after severe weather, visit www.Ready.gov.

#