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For Immediate Release

August 25, 2020

Linn County Emergency Management Storm Information Update

LINN COUNTY, IA – August 25, 2020 – Linn County Emergency Management continues to work with partners to respond and align resources in response to the August 10 derecho storm. Current priorities include streamlining donations, fire safety reminders, and volunteer and assistance needs.

Donations

Linn County Emergency Management will be closing the donation warehouse located at 4200 C Street SW in Cedar Rapids at 3 p.m. Wednesday, August 26. Material donations will not be accepted after that time and all remaining inventory will be distributed to local non-profits.

With the closure of the donation warehouse, the United Way, Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, Marion Chamber Foundation, Red Cross, and Salvation Army are asking those wishing to donate to consider donating financially to established relief funds. Donations can be made on the following websites:

- United Way of East Central Iowa: <https://www.uweci.org/disasterfund/>
- Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation: <https://gcrf.iphiview.com/gcrf/Donors/Donate>
- Marion Chamber Foundation: <https://www.marioncc.org/marionchamberfoundation.html>
- Red Cross: <https://www.redcross.org/donate/donation.html/>
- Salvation Army: <https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/cedarrapids/>

Those wishing to donate material goods are encouraged to contact local non-profits to see what donation needs exist before donating items.

Fire Safety

Dry conditions continue to persist in Linn County, contributing to increased rates of drying in vegetation and organic debris left from the August 10 storm. The dry vegetation and debris is very receptive to any source of ignition, which could lead to fire dangers.

Burn bans have been extended indefinitely for the City of Cedar Rapids and City of Marion. Linn County has reinstated the burn ban for the ½ mile buffer-zone around Cedar Rapids, Hiawatha, and Marion.

Burn permit requirements continue to be deferred in unincorporated Linn County through September 30, 2020, allowing for open burning of storm related landscape waste, including trees and tree trimmings in unincorporated Linn County outside of the city limits of Cedar Rapids, Marion, and Hiawatha. Residents in unincorporated Linn County burning debris from their property are asked to practice safe burning by having a water source near the burn pile, take weather into account by not burning on dry/windy days, and making sure the burn pile is in a clear area without significant undergrowth.

Volunteer Opportunities

The United Way of East Central Iowa, along with Linn Area Partners in Disaster, have a volunteer reception center activated in the Linn County Emergency Management Agency. Individuals are encouraged to sign up to help one of three ways:

1. Sign up online at uweci.org/volunteernow
2. Call 224-406-1366 Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
3. Visit Linn County Emergency Management, located at 6301 Kirkwood Blvd SW, Monday – Friday between 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. to get registered

Individuals in need of volunteer assistance can contact the Emergency Volunteer Reception Center at 224-406-1366 to be connected to volunteers.

If you are in need of additional assistance, United Way 211 can connect those in need to resources. To reach 211, dial 211 on any phone, text your zip code to 899211, or visit 211iowa.org.

Additional resource information is available at <https://www.linndisasterinfo.com/storm>.