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SITUATIONAL AWARENESS UPDATE

COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
69 West Washington - Suite 2630 Chicago, IL 60602 V. 312.603.8180

Toni Preckwinkle, *President - Cook County Board of Commissioners*
Michael G. Masters, *Executive Director*

Date: 19 April 2013
No. 02

Please report relevant information and direct all media inquiries to the DHSEM DUTYDESK via e-mail: DUTY.DESK@cookcountyil.gov or phone: (312) 603 – 8180 or (312) 603-8185.

As a result of ongoing and developing conditions, – to include rain, flooding and thunderstorms – which has caused and/or is forecasted to cause widespread flooding throughout our jurisdiction, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle has issued a disaster proclamation for Cook County. As of this point, the counties of Lake, DuPage, Will and Cook have all issued declarations. If the Governor issues a disaster declaration, our proclamation working in conjunction with that disaster declaration, would open the possibility of receiving federal funding to assist the County and our municipalities with the costs that have been incurred due to the floods.



Office of the Cook County Board President
Toni Preckwinkle

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 18, 2013

CONTACT

Monica Heth
(312) 720-5058
Monica.Heth@cookcountyil.gov

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle Issues a Disaster Proclamation for Cook County

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle today issued a disaster proclamation for Cook County.

Severe weather across Cook County has caused significant widespread flooding, with more severe weather forecasted to occur. Flash flooding has forced evacuations, significantly impacted homes and businesses, and closed numerous roadways. It continues to pose a distinct threat to individuals, critical infrastructure and other property.

The Des Plaines River, which lies in Cook County, is currently at 9.24 feet. The major flood stage is 9 feet. According to the National Weather Service, the Des Plaines River is predicted to crest on Friday at 11.5 feet. The rapid rise in the levels of the Des Plaines River and the continued cresting presents dangerous flooding conditions for residents and infrastructure.

“This historic level of flooding will impact many people and conditions will likely get worse before they improve in many areas,” President Preckwinkle said. “Dangerous conditions exist and it is important for residents to continue to be aware of their surroundings and exercise caution.”

The Cook County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management activated its Incident Command Center Wednesday, and it will continue operating throughout the duration of the severe weather. Cook County has been coordinating between various partners, including public, private and non-profit entities. In addition, the County has made resources available to assist jurisdictions who require aid, including providing emergency supplies and equipment.

Residents should contact their local municipalities with any damage or flooding information or requests for assistance. As always, in case of a life threatening emergency dial 911. Cook County will continue coordinating with local jurisdictions and first responders on flood-related issues.

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