



***PRESS*** release

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**Date: 7/22/2011**

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**Flood and Heat Relief Update  
Akron Employees Step Up to the Plate; Cooling Centers to Resume Normal Hours**

On Wednesday, 30 basements were cleaned and sanitized with help from about 60 people. Yesterday 150 people cleaned and sanitized 100 basements. Today, the cleanup efforts continue, with City employees working 12-hour shifts to knock out the several hundred basements still in need of cleaning. They will work on Saturday, taking 8-hour shifts, covering a 12-hour workday. There will be no cleanup efforts on Sunday, with work resuming Monday morning.

“Our employees are really doing a tremendous job,” said Mayor Don Plusquellic. “I really am proud of them and the effort they are expending to help our citizens through this crisis.”

The City has provided 50 cases of cold Gatorade yesterday, and another 50 cases will be delivered throughout the day today to the workers, who will be provided breaks as needed to fend off the heat.

City employees will remain reassigned and many regular City services will stay suspended in order to better deal with the flooding issues. Those services are as follows:

**Traffic Engineering:**

Operations Stopped:

1. All street striping
2. All crosswalk painting
3. Regular sign installation
4. Street name sign installation
5. New sign manufacturing
6. School flasher board assemblies
7. Wi-Fi equipment installation/fiber splicing
8. LED pedestrian signal replacements
9. New signal at Hyre CLC installation
10. Scheduled signal timing changes/maintenance

Operations Continuing:

1. Emergency sign repairs
2. Emergency traffic controller repairs
3. Emergency signal bulb replacements
4. Arts Expo work that needs to be done on Friday
5. Emergency signal repairs (poles, pedestrian signals, signal heads)

**Street Cleaning:**

Operations stopped:

1. Residential sweeping
2. Sweeper debris removal
3. Station (small business areas) cleaning.
4. Litter container service
5. Bridge deck flushing
6. Herbicide application
7. Banner installation/ maintenance

Operations continuing:

1. Maintain dead animal pickup and night shift (10:00pm-6:00am) sweeping.

### **Highway Maintenance:**

Highway has assigned all Employees including Management to assist Sewer Maintenance with exception of the following functions;

Operations stopped:

1. Not be performing Permit Restorations-no revenue
2. Yard operations shut down
3. No work on the Inner-Belt-Rt-8-Interstate
4. No pavement repairs including Dura-Patching concrete streets
5. No lawn strip, curb gutter repairs
6. No regular pothole patching
7. No mowing or herbicide applications
8. No Fence or guardrail repairs
9. No drainage/inlet repairs/washout repairs/berm repairs
10. Will not pickup debris unless deemed emergency

Operations continuing:

1. Will only repair emergency potholes
2. Will only respond to emergencies city-wide and on the expressway system
3. Will respond to Special Event Needs/requests
4. Inspection on Falmouth (Resurfacing Contractor)
5. Emergencies/Special Events
6. In the event an emergency arises, employees will be pulled only on an as needed basis to respond-responses will be significantly slower.

### **Parks Maintenance:**

Operations stopped:

1. Forestry-all bucket truck work
2. Daily maintenance/waste containers of all downtown parks/Towpath
3. Mowing-tractor and trim mowing
4. Ball field maintenance/ Special projects-fixing Skate Board Park erosion problem
5. Special events
6. Daily waste container route including the summer lunch program
7. Firestone Stadium daily maintenance
8. Landscaping/ Community Centers
9. Spraying herbicide (all parks)

Operations continuing:

1. Finish the set up for the art festival; there are some things we cannot do until Friday.
2. Sending at least one person to Firestone Stadium, and we need a two person bucket truck crew just in case we get any emergency call.

**Engineering Service:**

Operations stopped:

1. Permit and Inspection work by two employees

Regular operations will resume in the divisions once the flood emergencies and basement issues have been adequately handled.

**All Akron Community Centers will resume normal business hours starting today.**

Yesterday, the hottest day of the year, nobody used Akron's Cooling Stations. With rain in the forecast and expected to start cooling things down, the Akron Cooling Centers will not have extended hours starting today. People can still go to the Akron Community Centers during normal business hours to cool off, and we encourage them to do so.

"I am glad that our residents had places to go to stay cool during record-breaking temperatures and that the City was able to provide Cooling Stations to our residents to beat the heat," said the Mayor. "Now that things are cooling off a bit, and have one crisis behind us, we can turn 100% of our attention on the basement cleanups."

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