



PRESS release

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Flood Relief Update

Medical Mutual sends \$15,000 to help with supplies for people fighting heat.

As the flood waters retreat, the amount of damage left behind for Akron residents to clean up is becoming more apparent. Luckily for the residents, there is still help available. Currently, there are over 150 public and private employees working 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. cleaning up basements. Yesterday, 30 basements were cleaned with help from about 60 people.

“Today, with over 150 people pitching in to help clean basements and haul away trash, we expect to clean many more basements,” said Mayor Don Plusquellic. “I cannot thank our employees enough for stepping up to the plate during this crisis by foregoing their regular duties to help out. They are putting in 12 hour days, in tremendous heat, to help our citizens get their homes back in order.”

The City has provided 50 cases of cold water to be delivered throughout the day to the workers, who will be provided breaks as needed. “We do not want to jeopardize our employees’ health,” said Mayor Plusquellic. “They are performing a great service to our residents, but we must be mindful that the trudging up and down to basements in this extreme heat can take its toll.”

The Red Cross has been delivering meals in Kenmore and the State of Ohio is expected to send “muck teams” to Akron to help with the flood clean up efforts. “Muck teams” are groups of volunteers that are recommended by the State and are very reputable. Most are faith-based groups that volunteer their time cleaning up after natural disasters. They bring their own equipment, transportation, and fortitude.

Ohio Edison has gotten everyone back online (except around 6 structures, where meters have been pulled) in Summit County and there are currently no reported outages.

City employees have been reassigned and many regular City services have been 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. Russ Broman Inspection on Falmouth (Resurfacing Contractor)
5. Jeff Straus 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.

As the extreme heat continues, more help arrives. Today, Medical Mutual gave the City a \$15,000 donation in order to provide supplies for heat relief. This money will help provide water and other supplies necessary to cool off.

“We are very appreciative to Medical Mutual for their financial support during this difficult time for our residents,” said the Mayor. “Who would have thought that we would have a 1,000 year storm that caused massive damage, during the same time that we have record breaking high temperatures?”

Residents can still cool off at any of Akron's Community Centers during the daytime, and at the Ed Davis, Patterson, Ellet, Kenmore, Firestone and Lawton Community Centers from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. through Saturday.

Also, the Reimer shelter and cooling station will remain open until 9:00 p.m. tonight and will reopen at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow. Reimer will keep the 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. schedule until not needed.

As these events unfold, more updates will follow.

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