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A Program of Portage County Commissioners

MEDIA RELEASE

For June 28, 2019

CONTACT: Ryan Shackelford, Director, Portage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, rshackelford@portageco.com.

PORTAGE EMA ASKING RESIDENTS IMPACTED BY FLOODS FOR INFORMATION; TIPS FOR CLEAN-UP

The Portage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency management is collecting information associated with flash flooding conditions on June 27, 2019. Residents can submit the information requested below via phone or email.

We would like to hear from anyone who experienced flood damage and determine the extent of damages in Portage County. When calling in please be prepared with the following information:

- Your name and location of property
- Type of structure (single family home, manufactured home, apartment, condo, etc.)
- If the structure is owned or rented
- Type of damage that occurred, depth of water, etc.
- Basement or first floor
- Whether the structure is insured.

To provide the information, call: 330 297-3609. You may also e-mail the above information to pcorley@portageco.com.

Tips for cleaning flooded basements:

- Mold and mildew can start growing 24 hours after a flood and it creates a health concern.
- The best course of action is to immediately remove all items that are wet and subsequently clean, dry and in some circumstances, discard those items.
- FEMA recommends that organic materials, wood, upholstered furniture and other porous materials be discarded. This includes carpet which traps mold spores. Non-

porous materials can be cleaned, disinfected and reused. Dry-wall or other organic wall material should be removed, and the wall studs cleaned.

- Once removed, all surfaces should be cleaned, disinfected and dried as soon as possible.
- Drying make take multiple days but is essential to limit mold and mildew growth.
- Use non-ammonia soap or detergent to clean all areas and items impacted. Mix 1-1/2 cups of household bleach in one gallon of water to disinfect the area.
- Never mix bleach and ammonia as hazardous gases can form.
- Remember that basements are typically a confined space, so open windows and fans to properly ventilate.
- Wear appropriate protective clothing or gear like rubber gloves and a heavy-duty dust mask.
- Residents who are unable to remove items and properly disinfect their homes are encouraged to contact the United Way 2-1-1- helpline. Assistance may be available. Please visit http://www.211.org/ for more information.

All questions can be directed to the PC OHS/EM at 330-297-3609 or pcorley@portageco.com. If you have any questions, contact the Portage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management at (330) 297-3607.

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