



March 4, 2010

PRESS RELEASE

Board of County Commissioners

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Fargo, North Dakota

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Fargo, North Dakota

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Fargo, North Dakota

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West Fargo, North Dakota

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Cass County Government has declared a flood emergency, and the Governor's Office has already issued its statewide declaration. Cass County is also working with the small incorporated cities in Cass County to make sure all disaster declarations are complete.

Cass County has begun to meet with rural subdivisions and small cities on flood fighting plans. The county has held several meetings with the Cities of Oxbow, Fargo and West Fargo and with Southeast Cass Water Resource District. Upcoming meetings will be held with Bakke Subdivision, Stanley Township Subdivisions, Pleasant Township Subdivisions, Reed/Raymond/Harwood Township Subdivisions.

Cass County has adopted new policies for flood fighting in 2010. We have specific policies for small incorporated cities, unincorporated areas with public infrastructure, and unincorporated areas without public infrastructure. This information is posted on our home webpage at www.casscountynd.gov.

Cass County inmates will be working with the City of Fargo at "Sandbag Central" and will also begin working with Cass County sandbag efforts at our sandbag location at 220 21st St. NW, West Fargo....just blocks away from our Highway Department location. We will be announcing our sandbagging hours soon, and volunteers will be welcome. This is a heated location but please bring gloves.

You will recognize the familiar faces of Cass County as we begin the 2010 flood fight. Our county engineer, Keith Berndt will serve as our incident commander; Sheriff Paul Laney will lead our public safety division. These command units will operate out of our Highway Department Building. Our emergency operations center will operate at the Joint Public Safety Building and we will co-locate with the City of Fargo, First Link volunteer center and the Red Cross/Salvation Army, etc. Our Emergency Manager Dave Rogness will work at that location. Cass County will have a special flood hotline number, which will be activated soon, and that information will be provided shortly.

We feel we are well prepared to fight what nature brings us. We will need your help. I know if we all pull together, we can be successful.

For further information, contact Bonnie Johnson, Cass County Administrator, at (701) 241-5720.

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Commission Assistant

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SUBJECT: FLOOD ASSISTANCE TO CITIES AND UNINCORPORATED AREAS

ADOPTED DATE: FEBRUARY 16, 2010

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This policy sets forth criteria to use when determining the level of county assistance to provide to incorporated cities and unincorporated areas during times of flooding in Cass County.

INCORPORATED CITIES

County staff are allowed to provide limited technical assistance, law enforcement, rescue, and coordination activities within incorporated cities. Planning and construction of emergency clay, sandbag or other emergency levees within city limits, including associated pumping, will be considered the responsibility of the city.

UNINCORPORATED AREAS

County staff are allowed to give priority to construction of necessary primary and secondary levees on public and private property where those levees protect public infrastructure.

For private residences in unincorporated areas where protective measures do not involve public infrastructure, county staff are allowed to create a system to provide sand and sandbags to private homeowners, wherein the county's judgment the protection is warranted.

The county may also participate in construction of earthen or other levees to protect groups of private homes. It is understood these expenses most likely will be borne by the county and may not be eligible for state or federal reimbursement, and residents will be responsible for a 10% cost share.

HISTORICAL REFERENCE DATE: FEBRUARY 16, 2010