



**American
Red Cross**

News Release NEWS RELEASE

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FOR MEDIA ONLY

Red Cross Flooding Relief Continues

Eau Claire, WI... July 15, 2016 – After flooding in Northern Wisconsin, the American Red Cross has been helping people with emergency needs. Heavy rains caused extensive damage so the State of Wisconsin declared a State of Emergency in several counties including Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Price, Sawyer and Washburn counties. Red Cross services have included providing clean up supplies, bottled water and connecting one-on-one with affected families who need shelter, health or other immediate disaster relief. An Incident Integrated Care & Condolence Team is also working with the families of the three fatalities. All efforts are being coordinated in concert with state, county and local governments.

On Friday, Red Cross workers are delivering clean-up kits (bucket, mop, broom, squeegee, gloves, bleach, brush, etc.) to the following locations:

- Methodist Church, Hayward - 35 kits and Flood Recovery Booklets
- Minong, Town Hall, Washburn – 50 clean-up kits and Flood Recovery Booklets
- County Health & Human Services, Ashland – 40 additional Clean-up kits, 60 cases of water, flathead shovels, garbage bags, gloves (Yesterday, 37 Clean-up kits, bleach, bottled water, perishable food and Flood Recovery Booklets.)

All locations listed above are coordinating distribution to the public.

As of Thursday evening, our Client Casework team met one-on-one with individuals/families affected by flooding and had opened 24 cases, with the majority being on the Bad River Reservation in Ashland County. Case work will continue through this weekend and by appointment should contact the Red Cross at 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or 800-236-8680.

The Red Cross encourages residents to stay safe by following safety tips:

- During cleanup, wear protective clothing, including rubber gloves and rubber boots.
- Dry-out the building quickly (within 24 to 48 hours). Open doors and windows. Use fans to dry out the building.
- **When in doubt, take it out!** Remove all porous items that have been wet for more than 48 hours and that cannot be thoroughly cleaned and dried. These items can remain a source of mold growth and should be removed from the home. **Removal and cleaning are important because even dead mold may cause allergic reactions in some people.**
- To *prevent* mold growth, clean wet items and surfaces with detergent/bleach and water.

- Homeowners may want to temporarily store items outside of the home until insurance claims can be filed.
- Stay away from floodwaters. If you come upon a flowing stream where water is above your ankles, stop, turn around and go another way.
- Turn around, don't drown. Most cars can be swept away by less than two feet of moving water.

We are greatly appreciative of Premium Waters and Kwik Trip who both donated pallets of water.

How you can help

The Red Cross and the communities it serves rely on locally trained volunteers to provide humanitarian relief during times of disaster. You can become a Red Cross volunteer in your community when disaster strikes. To learn more, visit redcross.org/Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Region of the American Red Cross responds to nearly 900 disasters every year. You can help people affected by disasters like home fires and countless other crises by making a donation to support American Red Cross Disaster Relief. Your gift enables the Red Cross to prepare for, respond to and help people recover from disasters big and small. Click redcross.org/Wisconsin or call 1-800-RED CROSS or text REDCROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 donation. Contributions may also be sent to the American Red Cross, 3728 Spooner Avenue, Altoona, Wisconsin, 54720

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and counsels victims of disasters; provides nearly half of the nation's blood supply; teaches lifesaving skills; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a charitable organization — not a government agency — and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its humanitarian mission. To learn more about the Wisconsin Region please visit redcross.org/Wisconsin. Follow us on Twitter @redcrosswis and read our blog at redcrosswisnews.org

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