

Department of Planning and Development
McHenry County Government Center - Administration Building

2200 North Seminary Avenue
Woodstock, Illinois 60098



815 334-4560 Fax 815 337-3720
www.co.mchenry.il.us

PRESS RELEASE

Flooded McHenry County communities have recently been reminded by state and federal officials of the need to require local permits prior to the repair and reconstruction of flood damaged structures. These permits are required as part of the community's responsibility under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). As a condition of NFIP participation, a floodplain management ordinance must be enforced by the community. Communities that fail to properly enforce floodplain management regulations may risk losing their ability to obtain future disaster assistance, flood insurance, and post-disaster recovery and mitigation funding.

The McHenry County Stormwater Ordinance (enacted in 2004) requires that permits must be obtained for any repair or reconstruction of flood damaged structures, or any development located partially or completely in a regulatory floodplain, regulatory floodway, or flood prone areas and wetlands. Special conditions apply to substantially damaged buildings.

Annual flood damages continue to increase in Illinois. In Illinois, it is estimated that there are over 250,000 buildings located in floodplains. Floods are by far the most common natural disaster in Illinois, accounting for well over ninety-percent of the declared disasters. Annual damages due to flooding average nearly \$300 million dollars. Unfortunately, much of this flood damage occurs on the same properties over and over again. As a result, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources have stepped up efforts to ensure that local communities enforce their adopted floodplain ordinances. The continued availability of disaster assistance, mitigation grants, and flood insurance depend upon the enforcement of the floodplain ordinance.

State and Federal sources may also provide mitigation assistance to reduce the chances of future flood damages. This may include funding to relocate, elevate, or purchase flood damaged structures. In addition, flood insurance coverage may also provide up to \$35,000 to protect a structure from future flood damages.

For more information regarding rules and regulations for building in the floodplain, visit the McHenry County website at <http://www.co.mchenry.il.us> or call the Planning & Development \Stormwater Division at 815-334-4560. For information regarding FEMA flood insurance, maps, disaster information, applying for assistance, or recovery and rebuilding go to the FEMA website at <http://www.FEMA.gov> or call 1-800-621-3362.

Alicia Law
McHenry County Stormwater Manager\Environmental Specialist

###