



COUNTY OF KENOSHA

Administrative Services Emergency Management

Bennett J. Schliesman
Director

1000 - 55th Street
Kenosha, WI 53140
Telephone: (262) 605-7900
Fax: (262) 605-7905
E-mail: BSchliesman@co.kenosha.wi.us

PRESS RELEASE

April 1, 2008

For More Information Contact:
Ben Schliesman @
262-605-7900

KENOSHA COUNTY EXECUTIVE TERRY ROSE ISSUES EMERGENCY DECLARATION FOR RESIDENTS LIVING ALONG/NEAR THE FOX RIVER

“April 1, Today, one of the very first things that Kenosha County Executive Terry Rose did was sign a Declaration of Emergency for portions of Kenosha County for residents living in the Towns of Salem and Wheatland and the Village of Silver Lake along or near the Fox River,” Stated Ben Schliesman, Director, Kenosha County Emergency Management/Homeland Security. “County Executive Rose is extremely concerned about the situation along and near the Fox River that is currently experiencing flooding and/or will be experiencing flooding by the time the Fox River crests on Thursday morning.”

The Declaration of Emergency states, “IT IS HEREBY DECLARED THAT A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY EXISTS IN PARTS OF THE COUNTY OF KENOSHA, FOR THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC REASON(S):

The recent heavy rains have caused an imminent rapid rise in the levels of the Fox River, resulting in dangerous flooding conditions for those residents living along or near the Fox River in the Towns of Wheatland and Salem and the Village of Silver Lake. Residents whose homes are along the Fox River south of Hwy 50 and north of Hwy F, are strongly urged to evacuate low-lying areas until river levels recede.

I FIND THAT DISASTER CONDITIONS EXIST WHICH REQUIRE
EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
OF CITIZENS IN THESE AREAS.

The latest prediction from The National Weather Service (NWS) in Sullivan WI as of 4:45 AM Tuesday April 1, has the Fox River at a current flood stage of 11.97 Feet and is currently predicted to crest at 13.1 Feet by early Thursday morning, April 3, then begin falling. The Fox River Height/flow is measured at the New Munster River Gauge in the Town of Wheatland.

In the Oakwood Shores Subdivision in the Town of Wheatland, water is on some of the streets at 11.2 feet. At approximately 12.8 feet, there is widespread flooding of homes in low-lying areas.

“Residents are urged to take extreme caution and seek alternative shelter if their home is affected by flooding or they are unable to get into their home until the river subsides,” stated Ben Schliesman, Director, Kenosha County Emergency Management/ Homeland Security. “When the flood waters get this high, swift currents may be present which will pose an extreme danger to residents and any First Responders whom may have to assist if an emergency arises. Residents who choose to remain in flooded areas, do so at their own risk.”

Residents needing temporary housing assistance may contact the American Red Cross at 1-800-236-8680; residents in need of sand bags should contact their Municipality.

“We constantly monitor the Fox River and other areas of the County where flooding occurs or might occur,” said Schliesman. “Water can be extremely dangerous; it takes only two feet of water covering a roadway to carry away most automobiles. It’s critical that people be aware of their surroundings when water is present and that they do not drive through flooded areas or try and stay in an area and wait out the flood; they may be putting their lives and their loved ones lives in serious jeopardy. A NOAA All Hazard Weather Radio with the frequency of 162.450 is a must for residents, businesses and public buildings so as to stay on top of flooding conditions and other weather and non weather related emergencies.”

NOTE: The Fox River flows through the Towns of Salem and Wheatland and the Village of Silver Lake.