



## Franklin County Emergency Management Agency

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## Media Release

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### **Update On Franklin County Flooding**

*Local officials advise to closely monitor the situation, take public health precautions*

(West Frankfort, Illinois) Flood waters continue to rise in some portions of Franklin County. The City of West Frankfort continues to be the most affected location in the County. Officials are also monitoring flood conditions near the Cambon Lake area. If you live near a location that could be affected, now is the time to prepare a plan to evacuate if you need to. Citizens that do evacuate due to flooding should attempt to turn off utilities to the residence, as well as bring important medications, clothes, and bedding items.

Areas throughout Franklin County could see additional flooding in the evening and overnight hours. Persons that live close to the Big Muddy River and the Cambon Lake area should closely monitor rising floodwaters. National Weather Service officials forecast the Big Muddy to reach its maximum flood stage on or around Friday.

The American Red Cross has established a shelter location at the St. Paul's Lutheran Church located at 1 West Frankfort Plaza, in West Frankfort, Illinois. At this time the shelter is currently on standby.

It is advisable to avoid contact with floodwaters. For those individuals who must make contact, they should practice good personal hygiene. If open sores or wounds become exposed to contaminated water, disinfect the area(s) with soap and clean water to control infection. While skin contact with floodwater does not, by itself, pose a serious health risk, ingesting anything contaminated with floodwater can cause disease.

Although disease outbreaks are rare after flooding, floodwater can contain various, bacteria, viruses and other infectious organisms that may cause disease. For individuals that may sustain an injury that is contaminated with flood water, it is advised to receive a tetanus shot within 48 hours. Individuals who are exposed to flood water, but have not sustained an injury do not immediately need a tetanus shot, but should review their shot records and if they have not had a tetanus shot within the past 10 years, they should contact their doctor or the Franklin-Williamson Bi-County Health Department to make an appointment to receive a shot.

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