



SARPY COUNTY UNIFIED COMMAND

1210 GOLDEN GATE DRIVE PAPILLION, NE 68046

Media Contact: Tricia Freeman

Phone: 402-593-2230

NEWS RELEASE

Sarpy County Joint Information Center

August 17, 2011 10:00 a.m.

For Immediate Release

Sarpy County Unified Command Plans as Missouri River levels recede.

As the work of monitoring and inspecting the levees continues, plans are being made to address residents' concerns of returning to their property. Life safety is the biggest concern when discussing with individuals the possibility of returning to the flooded areas. Other concerns deal with public health and possible environmental contamination. No one is allowed back into the flooded areas at this time.

Coordinated effort continues between the Sarpy County Sheriffs Office and the Bellevue Police Department to make certain anyone on or near the levees are trained personnel assigned to inspect the levees. Staff from Bellevue Public Works and the Sarpy County Highway Department must be given time to inspect streets and determine the stability of the roadways. There is no date set to allow individuals to return to the flooded areas but the current plan is to make the assessment and an announcement prior to September 18th.

Those in Sarpy County designated for assistance as affected individuals and business owners can begin the disaster application process by registering online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov, by web enabled mobile device at m.fema.gov or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free telephone numbers are available from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. EDT.

Applicants registering for aid should be prepared to provide basic information about themselves (name, permanent address, and phone number), insurance coverage and any other information to help substantiate losses.

Information from Sarpy/Cass Department of Health and Wellness, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and from the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency can be found at the Sarpy County Emergency Management website: <http://www.sarpy.com/ema/currentEvents.html>