

Town of Oxford

Storm Response – Update to Previous Message from 08/31/18

Tuesday, September 4, 2018

To the residents of the Town of Oxford:

Recent flooding and severe storms continue to take a toll on the Town of Oxford, as they have on neighboring municipalities in Marquette County and across central Wisconsin. All of us have been hard hit with the effects of this severe weather, which is hampering recovery work. Continued rainfall is slowing work; many roads continue to be closed.

A map of central Wisconsin from the National Weather Service shows that Marquette County has received officially more than 16" of rainfall in recent days. This does not include the most recent rainfall received on Labor Day Monday. With the ground saturated, additional rainfall results in instant runoff and more drainage issues.

Outstanding Response

Again, thank you to Town of Oxford residents for your help and for your continued patience. We could not do this without your help and support. We are reminded that the recovery period will take weeks and months, not hours and days. Continued coordination with other government agencies and private contractors will be our best avenue to eventually putting this issue behind us.

Emergency Declarations

At this date, no declaration has been made from either the state or federal government, although steps are being taken for this to possibly happen. The Town of Oxford is doing the work needed, regardless of possible declarations. We are documenting everything and expect to participate if any emergency declarations are made.

5th Drive is Closed Indefinitely

Fifth Drive in the Town of Oxford, from Highway 82 to County Road D will remain closed due to a flood-damaged culvert and road washout. Barricades are in place. Under no circumstances are these barricades to be moved. Violators are subject to citation. CAUTION: the road is washed out under the asphalt. The road is not safe for any vehicle traffic. Repairs will be made as soon as possible, but no date has been established. Please be patient.

Flooded Basements and Wells

Flooded basements continue to be a concern for many Town residents. The Marquette County Health Department is offering free cleanup kits. Proper cleanup will help ensure that mold and other issues do not develop. Please take advantage of the services being offered for your benefit.

Water test kits are available for your use, especially if you suspect your well has been flooded by storm water. The Marquette County Health Department has test kits for bacteria only. Full service test kits are available through the Marquette County University of Wisconsin Extension Office.

Water-Damaged Items

The Town of Oxford dump site located at Endeavor Recycling in Endeavor is working to increase services to prepare for an anticipated increase in the amount of water-damaged materials from flooded basements. Again, please take advantage of this service to assist in your cleanup efforts. Town officials will continue to monitor an anticipated increase in usage and do our best to keep up with demand during the storm cleanup period.

Marquette County Planning & Zoning Office

The Marquette County Planning & Zoning Office is available to assist with permitting on restoration work to homes and buildings. Please contact them prior to starting work to ensure you are in compliance with all requirements.

Tree and Brush Removal

As mentioned earlier, the Town of Oxford does not normally provide pickup, removal, or a drop site for trees and brush. These are extreme times and we realize some residents may have no options available to them.

During the storm recovery period, trees and brush placed in the town road rights-of-way will be removed by the Town as part of our own clean-up process. This can be for trees and brush only that is placed in the right-of-way. No trash or other debris will be processed. The Town cannot go on private property to assist with tree removal work. Again, this service can exist only for the duration of the storm recovery period. Budgets restrict us from offering this service indefinitely. We have now started this work, but the going is slow. No timeline has been established for completing the removal of trees and brush from our rights-of-way.

Thank You

Finally, thank you once again to the residents of the Town of Oxford for your kind assistance and patience during these trying times. It is greatly appreciated.

A continued wish for all the best to all of us.

Town of Oxford Board of Supervisors

Keith Wohlfert, Chair
Greg Goodhue, Supervisor
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