



Department of Neighborhood Services

-MEDIA ADVISORY-

DNS reminds owners of clean-up responsibility Who to contact for inspections on damaged property

For immediate release-

As Milwaukee continues to recover from last week's flooding, many residents are discovering additional damage to their buildings while basements are emptying. Various City departments are responding with their respective expertise.

If you had flood water in your basement, the first step is to call DPW's 286-CITY (2489) to report it if you have not done so already. DPW will determine the cause either by site inspection or phone interview. DPW is also collecting this information to determine the extent of the flooding problem.

If additional building damage is revealed once the water is gone, people should call the Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS) at **(414) 286-2268 to report structural damage** such as bowed walls or buckled floors, water soaked electrical service systems. DNS will inspect the property and issue any necessary repair orders. Special programs, using e-permits, are in place to expedite certain repairs, such as reconnecting electrical service. More extensive repairs will require the traditional inspection permit process.

Property owners, not tenants are responsible for repairs and completion of the clean-up process for their properties under chapter 275 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances regardless of lease agreements. DNS will issue orders to the owners, NOT the tenants. Buildings must be restored to a dry and sanitary condition otherwise DNS will issue orders.

There is one more hidden aspect of the storm damage. Banks, lenders and those holding titles to foreclosed property must check those properties for damage. Water left in basements will cause additional problems as time passes. This is critically important in light of the recent storm. Mortgage holders should be monitoring their properties every 30 days for any maintenance issues.

DNS nuisance inspectors are not issuing clean-up orders on debris stacked orderly at the normal garbage collection point that appears to be flood damaged. DPW is in the process of collecting this material. It should NOT be comingled with the regular garbage collection.

Please share this information with your neighbors to help them recover quickly from this flooding.

Todd Weiler
Certifications and Communications Coordinator
City of Milwaukee Department of Neighborhood Services
841 N. Broadway RM104
Milwaukee, WI 53202

414-286-3214 desk
414-708-3214 cell
tweile@milwaukee.gov