

STORM RESPONSE RESOURCES



Saturday, August 29 - Monday, August 31

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Neighborhood Resource Centers Closing

The five Neighborhood Resource Centers (Ladd Library, Metro High School, Taylor Elementary School, St. Paul's Methodist Church, and Northwest Recreation Center) will conclude emergency storm relief services on **SUNDAY, AUGUST 30 and close at 7:00 p.m.** Information on community resources will continue to be available on the City of Cedar Rapids website.

Food Assistance

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Dubuque and Metro Catholic Outreach, in partnership with Cedar Rapids Metro Area Catholic Churches, will distribute free fresh produce and frozen meat boxes Saturday, August 29 through Monday, August 31 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Meat boxes will only be available during the Saturday distribution. The distribution will occur at the following locations:

- Saturday, August 29 - St. Matthew Catholic Parish (2310 1st Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids)
- Sunday, August 30 - St. Matthew Catholic Parish (2310 1st Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids)
- Monday, August 31 - St. Jude Catholic Church (50 Edgewood Road NW, Cedar Rapids)

The service is available to **all area storm victims**, regardless of income levels or residency. All faiths and backgrounds are welcome.

DSNAP locations

DHS staff will be available to assist with DSNAP benefits from Monday, August 31 through Sunday, September 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Resources will be located at the Ladd Library parking lot and US Cellular Arena. Please park on the street or in the Convention Center or Five Seasons parking ramps.

Additional Resources

- Call Iowa Legal Aid for legal advice related to the Derecho at 1-877-469-2259.
- Interpreters are available by phone, through FEMA, to assist those who do not speak English with the FEMA application process. The Catherine McAuley Center can also provide support to residents who do not speak English in completing their applications.

Iowa Attorney General Mobile Field Office

The Iowa Attorney General will have a mobile field office at the U.S. Cellular Center, 370 1st Avenue NE, on Monday, August 31 and Wednesday, September 2 from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Citizens are encouraged to visit the mobile field office if they have any questions about price-gouging or consumer complaints about contractors performing storm-related work. Citizens may also file a complaint with the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division by emailing consumer.consumer@ag.iowa.gov or calling 1-888-777-4590.

Recreational Vehicles Permitted as Temporary Housing

The City of Cedar Rapids has expanded the in-town use of recreational vehicles (RVs) to be used as a temporary housing unit for those displaced or completing home repairs. Recreational vehicles include travel trailers, motor homes, and campers. RVs will be permitted as temporary housing in all Cedar Rapids zoning districts until November 15, 2020. Applicants are required to apply for a zoning clearance permit. Full details are listed on the [City's website](#).

For any additional temporary shelter needs, contact 2-1-1.

Storm Debris Pickup

Collection of non-tree debris will begin next week. The following items, and any other items damaged in the storm, may be collected curbside: storm sheds, small electric garden tools, children's outside play buildings, trampolines, swing sets, fencing, roofing, shingles, window awnings, glass, windows and doors, siding, insulation, drywall, eave troughs, soffit, fascia, patio furniture, water damaged mattresses, or clothing and other items damaged in the storm, and grills (but not propane tanks).

Residents are asked to set debris at the curb, keep the street and sidewalks free of debris, and keep tree debris in separate piles from non-tree debris. Propane tanks, and any other hazardous materials must be properly disposed of at the Solid Waste Agency County Home Road location. This program is not intended to collect bulky items that were not damaged by the storm, so please schedule a bulky item pickup for those items by emailing solid-waste-recycling@cedar-rapids.org or calling 319-286-5897.

Keep Drains Clear

It is important to keep storm drains clear of debris and clogged leaves that will block water. If you're able, please rake or shovel debris away from drains and inlets to reduce the risk of street flooding if heavy rains occur.

Burn Ban

The burn ban will remain in effect indefinitely due to the extremely dry conditions and hot temperatures, which has created a significant fire danger with tree debris and leaves that have dried out. The burn ban includes recreational fires. To report an illegal burn, please contact the Fire Department at 319-286-5491.

Business Survey

In response to the business impacts of derecho, the City is asking area businesses to complete a brief storm loss questionnaire. The questionnaire is designed to help City staff identify needs in the post-disaster recovery process. Business owners and managers can complete the questionnaire now or in the weeks ahead as information becomes available. The questionnaire can be found on the Cedar Rapids Economic Development website: <https://www.economicdevelopmentcr.com/2020/08/august-2020-derecho-economic-recovery-assistance/>

Tree Debris Hauling

Tree debris will continue to be removed from every street for both tree debris and storm debris. The first pass of curbside removal has been completed on approximately 22 percent of all streets. Due to the volume of debris on every street, we estimate it may take up to a month before crews can get to every street for a first pass. Crews will then return to every neighborhood again. If debris is left after the first pass, it will still be picked up at a later date. This is a major disaster recovery operation, which impacted the entire city and will take significant time to complete. It is difficult to predict when removal will take place in specific neighborhoods, as crews encounter a variety of different situations at each street and are not able to predict how long each route will take. A map intended to show the overall scope of progress and general areas completed, as well as a list of frequently asked questions is available on at Cedar-Rapids.org.

Tree Debris Sites

Residents are not permitted to visit the City's drop-off sites and collect wood for personal use. Once wood is picked up, it will go to the drop-off sites for mulching as well as appropriate FEMA documentation, and is not available for residents at this time. For safety reasons, we cannot allow residents onto drop-off sites while work is underway. Heavy machinery is operating and there is a high volume of large truck traffic.

Starting Tuesday, September 1, hours of operation for the public drop-off site for tree debris (located at 1st Street NW and I Avenue) will change to 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily. Due to remaining space available, the site is anticipated to be open through September 5.

Ongoing Tree Assessments

A certified arborist will evaluate remaining street trees to determine their potential for survival. In some cases, a tree's canopy may appear healthy, but the tree may not be structurally sound. While the City values every tree, especially after losing more than 20,000 street trees from the derecho, not all remaining trees may recover from the storm. There may be situations where a standing tree that appears healthy will need to be removed because it poses a safety concern or will not survive. Moving forward, the City will work with community partners to develop a tree replanting initiative to replenish our tree canopy.

