



# Ozaukee County Sheriff's Office

*Jim Johnson, Sheriff*

1201 S Spring St • PO Box 245

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262-284-7172 (Local) • 262-284-8490 (Fax)

[www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/sheriff](http://www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/sheriff)



## ***Information on Assistance to Homeowners Related to Recent Flooding -For Immediate Release, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019-***

Many citizens have been given false information related to the assistance that is available to them following the recent flooding event that took place in mid-March. Here are the answers to the some of the commonly asked questions that we have received:

### ***Where is my FEMA money?***

At this time, the federal government has not declared Wisconsin a federal disaster area. We also do not expect a declaration due to the fact that the total amount of damage is unlikely to meet the threshold requirements. Should the status of the disaster declaration change, we will provide information to residents as it becomes available.

### ***What about money from the State of Wisconsin?***

Similar to the previous question, it is unlikely that our area will meet the disaster threshold requirements to receive any money from the Wisconsin Disaster Fund.

### ***What should I do with debris in my yard?***

Property owners should contact their local municipality (city, village or township) to discuss debris and garbage removal that is beyond the normal weekly refuse pickup. In almost all cases, you will be required to move garbage and debris to the curb or shoulder area; however you should contact your municipality for exact requirements. Remember to keep storm drains clear of debris to prevent additional flooding. Ice chunks that were pushed onto your property should be left to melt.

### ***What should I do with debris in the river?***

We are currently working with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to determine if it will need to be removed, how it can be removed and who will remove it. We strongly discourage homeowners from removing debris from the river. This task should be accomplished by trained professionals.

### ***Who should I call about damage to my home or property?***

If you have questions about damage to your home or covered property, you should contact your insurance agent. We HIGHLY encourage property owners to get flood insurance; even if you do not live in a floodplain. Events like this happen all too often and for most property owners, having flood insurance is the only assistance they may receive. Currently, the only place to get flood insurance is through the National Flood Insurance Program. More information can be found here: <https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program>

### ***How do I clean up the water damage inside my home?***

Always be safe when dealing with flood waters and damage within the home. For more information, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/cleanup/facts.html>.



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## ***What does Ozaukee County Emergency Management do?***

Ozaukee County Emergency Management provides coordination, preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation to disasters and emergencies. We also provide services such as:

- Emergency Planning Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) training and response
- Hazardous materials emergency planning
- Hazardous Materials Team
- Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
- Ozaukee Amateur Radio Emergency Service (OZARES)
- Rescue Boat-Lake Michigan Search and Rescue,
- Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)
- Act as a conduit between the State of WI and local municipalities
- Support local municipalities and responders during emergencies
- Provide warnings and communications during an emergency

What we do NOT do:

- Give money to homeowners
- Provide or assist homeowners with sandbags, sand or personnel to place them (sandbags are obtained through your city, village or township; should they choose to provide them. Sand may or may not be available through them and they will not provide personnel)
- Remove debris from property (unless it is a hazardous material release; under certain circumstances)
- Clean out damaged property from a home or business

**Scott Ziegler, Director  
Emergency Management Division  
Ozaukee County Sheriff's Office**