

CALHOUN COUNTY

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR/CONTROLLER

“Building a Better County Through Responsive Leadership”

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Kelli D. Scott
Administrator/Controller

- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

June 6, 2011

Contact persons:

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The top priority in the May 29 storm response is still ensuring the public's safety, health and welfare. Hundreds of crews are on the scene this week, including state personnel from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Department of Corrections who are assisting with County Road Commission and City Public Works efforts. The Red Cross and other volunteer efforts remain focused on meeting needs of those impacted by this recent disaster.

Heat Safety

Due to extreme temperatures and high humidity expected this week, residents are advised to drink lots of water, avoid drinks containing caffeine, alcohol and high sugar content, and take rest breaks to prevent heat related injuries and illnesses.

Equipment Safety

Residents are urged to exercise caution and follow safety guidelines when using equipment for debris removal. The following chainsaw safety tips are offered from Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA):

- Always wear personal protective equipment (eye equipment, hearing protection, proper footwear, hand and leg protection)
- Keep hands on handles, and maintain secure footing while operating the chainsaw.
- Clear the area of obstacles that may interfere with cutting
- Do not cut directly overhead
- Shut off or release throttle prior to retreating
- Be prepared to counter kickback of the chainsaw

Debris Removal Guidelines

Downed trees and other debris remain a serious public safety issue, and clearing and removing disaster debris is a major part of the recovery effort.

Officials emphasize that burning is not an acceptable means of yard debris disposal due to the extreme public safety risks it causes.

Within the City of Battle Creek, residents should separate tree debris into two piles in front of the sidewalk (behind the curb in areas with no sidewalk), one for debris 2 inches in diameter and smaller, the other for larger debris. Smaller debris that are bundled and tied in 4 foot lengths will be picked up by Waste Management as part of weekly garbage pickup. Residents who wish to dispose of debris more quickly can haul their tree debris for disposal to the City's composting facility at Brice Pit on River Road from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm daily.

In addition, the Community Compost Center located at 19646 Division Drive (just outside of the City of Marshall) that will be open 24 hours a day to assist residents with the cleanup of trees and other yard waste. If residents need additional information or need directions to the County's Compost center, please call 269-781-9841, extension 241 or visit the website at <http://calhouncountyrecycling.com/composting/>.

Working With Contractors

The City of Battle Creek reports that it is not contracting for any private debris removal services, and that residents should require proof of a valid license and insurance before hiring contractors. Contractors should also be required to remove trees from private properties instead of just cutting them down and leaving them for removal.

Who to Contact

Residents are reminded to continue to call 911 for emergencies, and 211 for help with non-emergency needs related to the recent storm.

Kelli Scott - Calhoun County Administrator/Controller
Art Kale - Calhoun County Board Chairman

Ken Tsuchiyama - Battle Creek City Manager
Susan Baldwin - Battle Creek City Mayor

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