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NEWS RELEASE

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Storm Clean-Up and Damage Assessment Continues in Dubuque

DUBUQUE, Iowa – City of Dubuque staff are working closely with Dubuque County Emergency Management as the clean-up from last week's storms continues and damage assessments increase.

Numerous residents experienced property damage from the storms, including flooded basements and property damage from downed trees and limbs. The City's Fire Department and Public Works Department pumped out over 100 basements, the majority of which are located on the city's north end. The City is also collecting stormwater-damaged items and tree limbs and branches free of charge this week on regular collection days. Because of the large amount of flood-damaged material, the Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency Landfill facility is extending its hours of operation to 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. until further notice.

Elderly and disabled Dubuque residents who need additional assistance with storm-related clean-up are encouraged to call Project Concern at 211. Residents interested in volunteering to assist with storm-related clean-up should also contact Project Concern.

A Dubuque Area Disaster Recovery Committee has been in operation and includes representatives from: the American Red Cross Tri-States Chapter, Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque Dubuque Catholic Charities, Dubuque County Emergency Management Agency, Dubuque County Health Department, Dubuque County Sheriff's Office, Dubuque Fire Department, Dubuque Police Department, Dubuque Health Services Department, Operation New View, Project Concern, United Way, and Visiting Nurses Association.

The Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque (CFGD) has formed a 2010 Flood Disaster Relief Fund to support flood relief efforts in Dubuque, Delaware, Jackson and Jones counties. The fund will be directed by the disaster recovery committees in each county to aid individuals, businesses, and communities. To contribute to the fund, checks may be delivered to the CFGD office at 700 Locust Street, Suite 195, Dubuque, IA 52001. Dubuque County residents may request funds by contacting Project Concern at 211.

FEMA officials are planning to visit Dubuque to assess the damage and local officials are offering suggestions on how residents can best prepare in the case of additional disaster declarations that could result in reimbursement opportunities for damages. Officials

encourage residents whose property sustained storm-related damage to contact their insurance company and document the damage with photographs, preferably with “before and after” images if at all possible. Additionally, it is critical that residents keep receipts for any clean-up or replacement costs related to the damage.

Following Governor Culver’s disaster proclamation for Dubuque County last week, the Iowa Department of Human Services’ Disaster Reimbursement Grant Program provides limited financial assistance for eligible households that have disaster-related needs and are unable to meet such needs through other means. The program awards grants to a maximum of \$5,000 per household. Eligible households are those whose self-declared annual household income is less than 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Guideline. Grant applications and instructions are available at the City Clerk’s Office at City Hall, 50 West 13th Street, and the Dubuque County Courthouse at 720 Central Avenue. For more information on this grant program, contact the Iowa DHS toll-free at 1-866-434-4692 or visit www.dhs.state.ia.us.

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