

June 15, 2013

News Release

For Immediate Release

Flash flooding in Springfield Saturday poses risks

Parts of Springfield have seen up to nine inches of rainfall in a two-hour time period Saturday, June 15, 2013. The sustained downpour led to some hazardous conditions, particularly in low-lying areas in south Springfield.

The National Weather Service issued its first-ever Flash Flood Emergency, a warning that expired mid-afternoon. The Flash Flood warning continues until 7 a.m. The Flash Flood Emergency status indicates a severe flooding situation in densely populated areas.

Flash flooding is the second most deadliest form of severe weather in the United States over the past 70 years.

The Springfield Fire Department's Water Rescue team responded to several water-related incidents this afternoon, with no injuries reported. The Water Rescue team called in off-duty personnel, who are assembled in south Springfield and are conducting flooding assessment in and around Springfield.

The Fire Department reminds you to "Turn Around, Don't Drown" if you encounter a flooded roadway.

If you have to leave your home, remember these evacuation tips:

- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. You and the vehicle can be swept away quickly.
- Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams, rivers or creeks, particularly during threatening conditions.

City Utilities reported more than 500 outages calls across their service area. Additional crews have been called in as well to assist with power restoration. Call 1-888-863-9001 to report a power outage.

For more information, contact: Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management at 417-848-7777 or Springfield Fire Chief David Hall at 417-838-4730.