

The IAFSM Rapid Assistance Flood Team (RAFT)



IAFSM

*Illinois Association for
Floodplain and Stormwater Management*



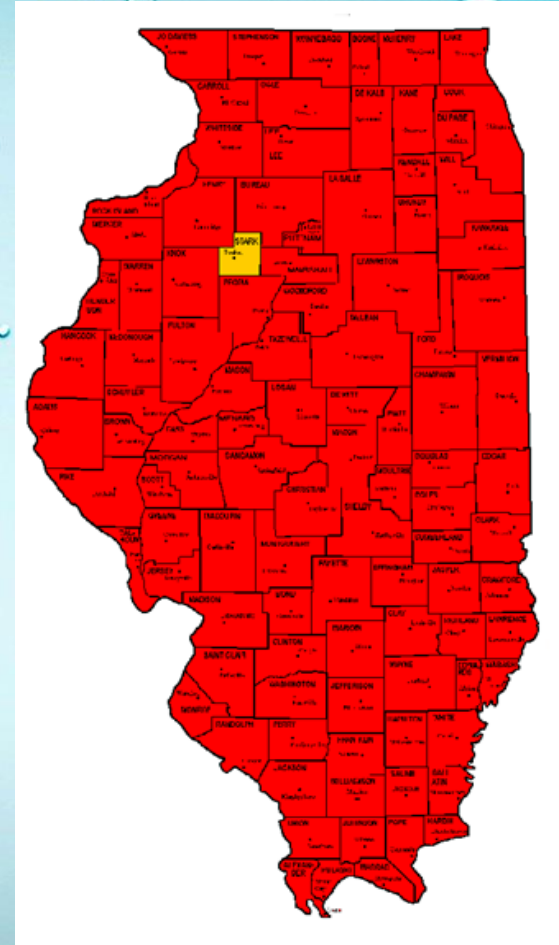
Flooding in Illinois

Illinois' Rivers, Lakes, & Streams



Floods occur
SOMEWHERE in
Illinois every
single year.

There has been
a federally
declared flood
disaster in
every county in
Illinois



**Facing
hundreds of
flooded
homes?**



Take Advantage of IAFSM Expertise!

- ▶ ~800 IAFSM members
- ▶ ~500 CFMs in Illinois
- ▶ ~50 damage assessment experts

What is the Rapid Assistance Flood Team?

IAFSM Members.

**Certified Floodplain
Managers.**

**They represent professional
disciplines.**

Experienced and trained in post-flood responsibilities.

**Volunteers who and have agreed to assist other
communities in times of need.**



What is the purpose of RAFT?



Often, local floodplain managers will be overwhelmed following a flood.

- ▶ **Illinois is blessed with some of the best floodplain managers in the entire nation.**
- ▶ **The Illinois Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers has coordinated a program to provide these experts free-of-charge to local officials following a flood.**

FPM Committee Meeting

First order of business....the name

- RAT
- DAFT
- FART
- LAFSMEFRT
- SHAFT
- RAFT.....Rapid Assistance Flood Team!



Who can belong to RAFT?

- ▶ **RAFT volunteers must be pre-approved by IAFSM Floodplain Management Committee.**
- ▶ **They must be Certified Floodplain Managers**
- ▶ **Must have the experience and training completed to assist the host community.**
- ▶ **Volunteers provide their own vehicle and equipment.**
- ▶ **RAFT volunteers must sign liability waiver forms annually.**

Will RAFT cost my community?

- ▶ No, RAFT members volunteer their time.
- ▶ Per diem and travel are reimbursed to them by IAFSM (using current State of Illinois travel rates).



How Does My Community Request RAFT Help?

- ▶ A formal request letter must be sent to the LAFSM Floodplain Management Chairman.
- ▶ This letter also serves as a release of liability.

Need Help?
JUST ASK.



Request Letter (and release of liability)

Sample letter is
in the RAFT
packet provided
to communities

City of Watseka

Wasekacity.org
Phone (815) 432-2711
Fax (815) 432-2041
E-Mail - mayor@wasekacity.org

201 Brianna Drive P.O. Box 338
Waseka, IL 60970
Robert J. Harwood
Mayor

July 31, 2015

Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management
35W749 Bluff Drive
St. Charles, IL 60175

Reference: Request for IAFSM RAFT Assistance

To Whom It May Concern:

On July 2015, the City of Watseka suffered severe flooding. This letter serves to request the assistance of the IAFSM RAFT to assist local officials with damage assessment and other disaster response functions.

In making this request, the City of Watseka agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the IAFSM, its agents and assigns, and any persons who participate in Rapid Assistance Flood Team activities for any actions or inactions during the course of the disaster response. Furthermore, the City of Watseka agrees and declares that any actions taken by any of the above-referenced persons in the course of providing assistance are to be considered duly authorized actions of the City of Watseka.

The City of Watseka has designated the following staff member as primary point of contact for the IAFSM RAFT Volunteer(s):

Thom Webster
Building Official
815-432-2711
code@wasekacity.org

I thank you for your assistance with our efforts to recover from this disaster.

Sincerely yours,


Robert Harwood, Mayor

RAFT Members are volunteers

- ▶ IAFSM estimates that in most cases, RAFT volunteers can complete damage assessments in a day or two.
- ▶ Travel on work day only. If overnight lodging is required, it must be provided by the host community
- ▶ No community cost for travel or per diem – reimbursed to volunteer by IAFSM.



IAFSM Expectations

- ▶ **1. Acts as overall coordinator of RAFT volunteer activities**
- ▶ **2. Coordinates RAFT volunteers and ensures annual training needs are met**
- ▶ **3. Ensures RAFT member liability waiver forms are updated, signed annually, and maintained on file**
- ▶ **4. Coordinates logistics for deployment to host community**
- ▶ **5. Provides damage assessment packet and volunteer packet**
- ▶ **6. RAFT volunteers will use consistent and industry accepted damage assessment methods developed by IAFSM to ensure equitability.**

RAFT Volunteer Expectations

- ▶ **Attend annual training to be prepared for damage assessment response**
- ▶ **Maintain IAFSM membership and Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs) license**
- ▶ **Provide equipment (digital camera, clip board, etc.) and clothing (boots, mask, etc.) necessary to conduct damage assessments**
- ▶ **Provides digital photos of damage assessments and digital files to be left with host community.**
- ▶ **Provides a vehicle to get to the host community and conduct damage assessments**
- ▶ **Has a personal photo identification badge to wear during inspections**

Host Community Expectations

- ▶ **1. Provides official ID tag or letter from Community leader.**
- ▶ **2. Provide a local host to accompany the RAFT volunteer.**
- ▶ **3. Provides a local contact or cell phone number for RAFT volunteer in case of emergency (police or fire)**
- ▶ **4. Provides a morning meeting location and afternoon wrap-up location**
- ▶ **5. Provides RAFT volunteer with damage assessment worksheets and map with assigned addresses to inspect**
- ▶ **6. Maintains records of damage assessments**
- ▶ **7. Ensure follow up on damage assessments and compliance with floodplain regulations.**
- ▶ **8. If the host community has the financial means or if disaster assistance funding is obtained, the host community will reimburse IAFSM for the travel and per diem expenses paid to RAFT volunteers.**
- ▶ **9. Pizza**

RAFT Volunteers Must Sign An Agreement

Firm/Community/County _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ FAX: (_____) _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Geographic Availability: 1) Chicago Metro __ 2) Northeastern IL __ 3) Northern IL __ 4) Central IL __
 3) Metro East __ 6) Southern IL ____

EXPERTISE TO BE PROVIDED RELATING TO DISASTER RESPONSES:

(damage assessment & estimating, expedient design, building code inspections, etc)

Emergency Contact:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Signed _____ Date _____

RAFT Volunteers Must Sign A Waiver

I _____ have volunteered as a member of the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management (IAFSM) Rapid Assistance Flood Team (RAFT).

As a volunteer, I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the IAFSM, its agents and assigns, and any persons who participate in Rapid Assistance Flood Team activities for any actions or inactions during the course of the disaster response.

Furthermore, I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the host community, its agents and assigns for any actions or inactions during the course of the disaster response.

I understand that IAFSM will reimburse at effective State of Illinois travel rates my travel cost and a daily per diem. Any other expenses are the responsibility of the volunteer or the volunteer's employer.

I am a Certified Floodplain Manager and my No. is _____

I have performed _____ number of damage assessments using FEMA's Substantial Damage Estimator Tool

I have _____ years of experience with conducting damage assessments for _____

I have participated in the annual IAFSM R.A.F.T. annual training in 20_____

Signature of RAFT Volunteer _____

Signature of Volunteer's Community CEO _____

RAFT Volunteers Provide Their Own Equipment

- ▶ RAFT Guidance Booklet with sample documents
- ▶ Bug repellent
- ▶ Clipboard
- ▶ Pen/Pencil
- ▶ Tape Measure (100 Foot)
- ▶ Local identification badge
- ▶ Flashlight
- ▶ Boots
- ▶ Rubber Gloves
- ▶ Masks
- ▶ Digital Camera
- ▶ Cell phone
- ▶ Health insurance information card



RAFT Volunteers

- 1) Make Your Job Easier**
- 2) Reduce Your Stress**
- 3) Provide a scapegoat**
- 4) Get your community and residents on the fast lane to recovery**
- 5) Cost you NOTHING!**
- 6) Get you a few more friends!**





IAFSM

*Illinois Association for
Floodplain and Stormwater Management*

Mike Sutfin, CFM
IAFSM Floodplain Management
Committee

Paul Osman, CFM
Illinois
Paul.osman@illinois.gov
217-782-4428

Four Prior RAFT Deployments

Watseka

August 5, 2015
(500 buildings)

Fox Lake

August 8, 2017
(185 buildings)

Mason County

February 4, 2016
(100 buildings)

Watseka #2

Call out Feb 25, 2018
Deploy March 2, 2018
(676 buildings)



This home is one of the dozens of damaged Watseka structures from 2008 floods that received ICC funds to elevate above the base flood. The home did not receive damage during this flood, while neighboring home did.



Left: RAFT team members Paul Kruse of South Elgin, Brad Winters of IDNR and Mike Suftin of Ottawa pour over flood maps on March 1 prior to conducting 676 substantial damage assessments for Watseka. Right: NFIP State Coordinator Paul Osman indicates flooded areas of Watseka on flood maps.











