

Catholic Mutual ... “CARES”

FLOOD PREVENTION

The Spring and Summer so far has been accompanied by exceptionally stormy weather. This pattern may likely continue and parish locations can take steps to protect their facilities from the possibility of flooding and water damage. Here are some simple steps to consider:

- Make sure gutters and downspouts are clean and free of any obstructions to allow water to run off unimpeded from building roofs
- Install downspout extensions to channel water away from building foundations
- Repair loose or sagging gutters and gutters that may have splits or holes so water can flow freely
- Regularly clear debris from roof, window well and parking lot drains to allow storm water to drain unimpeded
- Examine your roofs, repair leaks and plan to replace roofs that are nearing the end of their useful lives
- Check the grade around building foundations, the grade should slope away from the building, if it doesn't rain water will be a problem
- Make sure sump pumps are operating properly and they are free of obstructions. Consider replacing older units rather than waiting for a failure at an inopportune time.
- Consider a battery back-up for sump pumps or the use of an emergency generator should the power fail

Implementation of these simple, but often overlooked, steps may help to prevent a lot of heartache, and expense, in the future.

If all fails and a flood occurs, start clean up efforts right away and call Catholic Mutual immediately for assistance. During business hours call 815-838-2142, after hours call 708-212-6530.