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CANNON FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Chief
McCormick September 21, 2018 6:30pm PHONE: 507-263-2278

There is some critical information the City of Cannon Falls would request the Media assist us in getting out to City residents and businesses, as well as people looking to provide help.

The City of Cannon Falls has started cleaning up, but that is moving slowly in the areas with down power lines. The danger posed by down power lines is serious, so that area will only be cleaned up once the power company advises it is safe to do so. Because of that danger the City is not requesting any assistance from person wanting to help at this time. We understand your desire to do something to help and at the moment we would ask that you direct your desire to help by making a donation to our local food shelf or any of the community programs that provide assistance to people in our community.

The triage center is being shut down as the last patients are being transferred to other care facilities. City of Cannon Falls is recommending that residents without power or natural gas make arrangements to stay with family or friends that have not been impacted by this storm event. If you have no one to contact please contact the Red Cross emergency assistance at 1-844-878-9933.

The City recognizes that restoring power may be a slow process because the safety of all is number one. The power company crews are working to resolve this as soon as possible. In the meantime the City of Cannon Falls is requesting residents reduce their water use. The City has ten lift stations that are without power and is using either a mobile generator or vacuum truck to keep sewage from backing up in the lines. Conserving water will reduce the load and stress on the sewer system until power is restored.

The primary concern of the City is the safety of our residents and loss of electricity bring some new safety issues to be aware of:

- Do not use candles as a light source, because an open flame can result in a fire. Please use flashlights or lanterns that are powered by batteries.
- Generators should never be used inside a building, which includes a garage. Keep at least four feet of clearance between the generator and the structure and keep windows within twenty feet closed. Point the generator exhaust way from any occupied structures.
- If using a generator make sure that it is connected so it does not back feed current into the electrical service lines.

- When power is restored, be alert for electrical problems or fire in the service connection area if wires may have been pulled on, but not broken.
- As power is restored, it is possible for transmission lines that have not broken, but now have cracks to spark or cause fires if rubbing on trees or other structures.

One of the ongoing problems the City is still having is the large number of people driving around sightseeing the damage. The extra traffic is making it very hard for the City's emergency response by congesting the roads and delaying City vehicles moving to different locations to do their cleanup work. The City again asks people to PLEASE, PLEASE stay home and not make unnecessary trips into Cannon Falls until the State of Emergency has been lifted.

Please watch for updates on the Cannon Falls Police Department Facebook page or the City of Cannon Falls Facebook page.

The Cannon Falls Police Department wants to remind our residents to report anything suspicious that they may see or hear as soon as possible so an officer can check on what is occurring. The easiest way to report suspicious activity is calling 911.