

COUNTY Street N.W. MN 55021

## MEDIA RELEASE

## Date of Release: September 21, 2018 12:30 p.m.

## Subject: Emergency Public Health Assistance Information

This is an emergency public health message for the residents of Rice County.

Due to the recent weather events in Rice County support services have been set up as follows:

- Morristown Community Center, located at 402 Division Street South, Morristown MN 55052 has been set up by the Salvation Army as a feeding and support site. Food and bathroom facilities are available for Morristown area residents and emergency responders.
- A feeding canteen has been set up at the Faribault Airport for responders only.
- A dedicated phone line has been set-up for non-emergency inquiries related to this event: 507-333-3877. This number can be used to report blocked roadways or for other non-emergency assistance.
- For emergency response call 9-1-1

We have also been fielding calls related to asbestos. If asbestos-containing materials are suspected during cleanup, experts recommended you leave them alone. Stirring up asbestos-containing debris can result in airborne asbestos fibers and exposure is highly likely at that point.

Specific information about asbestos hazards during disaster can be found on the MDH website at: <u>http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/emergency/natural/floods/asbestos/index.html</u>

Quick tips can be found here: <u>http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/emergency/natural/floods/asbestos/asbestostip.pdf</u>

Please check the Rice County website at: <u>www.co.rice.mn.us</u> for media releases and updates related to this event.

## **CONTACTS:**

Sara Folsted, Rice County Administrator (507) 332-6121 Deb Purfeerst, Rice County Public Health Director (507) 332-5914