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Thursday July 26, 2012

Tired Of The Drought?
**Think Of Wet Rain, Rising Rivers & Possible Flooding,
Then Consider Steps To Take In Case Of High Water**

Although experts say there's no immediate danger in this drought of the Mississippi River flooding portions of Southwestern Illinois, the Metro East Sanitary District is encouraging families to think about possible flooding as a way to take their mind off the heat and the drought.

"If we plan our summer vacations and look through seed catalogs during winter snow storms so we can dream about spring sunshine, doesn't it make perfect sense to plan for flooding during a drought?" asks Bob Shipley, the Metro East Sanitary District Executive Director.

Accordingly, Shipley's staff has added information to the Metro East Sanitary District's web site to help individuals and families plan for possible future flooding.

Information is at www.MESDonline.org then click on "Be Safe, Be Prepared" tab.

"The best time to consider how we should plan for our family's safety during a flood is right now, today, in the midst of this drought. The next best time is this evening," Shipley said.

"Our Metro East Sanitary District team operates and maintains the levees to protect lives, jobs and property, and has done excellent work, but the hard fact is that the Mississippi River won't always be as tame as this past very dry month."

"For more than a century, the levees in Madison and St. Clair Counties have withstood tremendous pressure from the Mississippi, and have held the river back without failing. We're confident of the levee maintenance work our employees are doing every day, but we also know that everyone will be better prepared for surprises and high water if they think about the safety of their families now. That's why we've added information on our website to help people think ahead. Just as people think ahead in case of a fire, they should think ahead in case of a flood," Shipley added.