Residents affected by floods should consult the city before beginning construction projects

INDIANAPOLIS—The Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD), Division of Compliance is urging property owners to consult the city before beginning construction on structures damaged by the Labor Day floods.

Permits are typically required for work that impacts the structural integrity of a building such as installing floors, roofs, floor joists and beams.

Information collected through the permitting process also will assist the city in updating its flood management plan, which is required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

“As homeowners and business owners begin to make repairs, we urge them to consult with our compliance staff who will not only ensure that their work plans meet the requirements of local laws, but may also provide information on preventing or reducing damage caused by future flooding,” said DMD Director Maury Plambeck.

Division of Compliance staff can provide assistance to affected property owners by:

• Ensuring that owners are compliant with local laws by determining if a permit is needed for repair work;
• Reviewing plans for repair work, as a part of the permitting process, to determine if measures can be taken to reduce future flood damage;
• Providing information on licensing, ensuring that contractors have bond and liability insurance policies on file with the city.

The Division of Compliance can be contacted by visiting their offices at 604 N. Sherman Dr., or by calling (317) 327-8700. Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Residents can also access a list of licensed contractors online at www.indygov.org/dmd.

The City of Indianapolis currently participates in FEMA’s National Flood Insurance Program. The program makes federally backed flood insurance available to property owners as long as the city adopts and enforces floodplain management ordinances to reduce future flood damage. FEMA estimates that buildings constructed in compliance with building standards suffer approximately 80 percent less damage annually that those not in compliance.

Since the Labor Day floods, building inspectors from the Division of Compliance have inspected more than 1200 structures and are estimating more than $20 million in structural damage costs.

As a result of the FEMA’s disaster declaration on September 5, 2003, federal assistance will be available to residents. For more information residents can call (317) 621-FEMA or TTY 1-800-462-7585 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.