



More volunteers, donations requested following flood



The Kermit fire chief is asking for more people to volunteer to help the elderly with flood cleanup.

By Andrew Colegrove

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KERMIT, W.Va. (WSAZ) - It's the second week of cleanup and recovery after devastating flooding hit parts of the region.

Organizers at the Kermit Community Gym say there's still high demand for items to be donated.

Adam Maynard and his family live across the river from Kermit in Martin County. They lost everything.

"Recovery, that's the hardest part," Maynard said. "It's pretty rough."

They're among the hundreds picking up donated items like food, water, and cleaning supplies at the gym in Kermit.

"You can't really afford to buy it," Maynard said. "Everybody is sold out of pretty much everything anyway where everyone is buying it. When people donate it, it helps a lot of people."

Kermit councilmember Tammy Hodge says they're averaging more than 250 flood victims coming to the gym every day.

They're asking for more donations of cleaning items like mops, brooms, water hoses, towels and wash rags, as well as heating units and canned food.

"If people can't get to this facility, they most likely would have to travel by car 20 or 25 minutes to Williamson," Hodge said. "That's just not possible for maybe the disabled, the elderly, or people who lost their vehicles in the flood. They'd have no way."

Kermit Fire Chief Tommy Preece says there's a need for volunteers to help their elderly population with flood cleanup.

"We were flooded with volunteers before," Preece said. "Now that the cleanup has started, people have to go back to their jobs and stuff like that. That's the main thing right now is volunteers to help with cleanup."

Hodge says items they have plenty of and don't need any more donations of at this time include clothes and toys.

She says the gym has been open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day, but soon they'll have to adjust their hours, because the people operating it will have to return to their jobs.

The National Guard is picking up piles of debris and garbage left on curbs, Preece says.

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