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CANNON FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Chief
McCormick September 21, 2018 1pm PHONE: 507-263-2278

On September 20, 2018 at approximately 7:04 pm, the City of Cannon Falls was impacted by the storm that moved across the region. The City of Cannon Falls has been able to make a daylight assessment of the damage. The Mayor has declared a State of Emergency for the City of Cannon Falls.

The City has been informed that it could be a couple days before line crews are able get power fully restored. There are many homes and businesses without power and some without natural gas service and the City expects that it could be several days before all are fully restored. Based on this information the 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. Because of the extent of damage, the City has closed all parks and trails and asks everyone to please stay out of those areas until all debris has been cleaned up.

The City of Cannon Falls is requesting residents reduce their water use, to prevent sewer system overload. The City has ten lift stations that are without power and is using either a mobile generator or vacuum truck to keep the sewage from backing up in the lines. Conserving water will reduce the load and stress on the sewer system until power is restored.

There are many residents that are using portable generators to provide power to their homes or businesses. The City of Cannon Falls wants to remind those generator users to make sure that they are doing so in a safe manner. 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. Make sure that if using a generator is not back feeding current into the electrical service lines, which creates a risk to anyone who may come in contact with that downed line.

One of the ongoing issues the City is 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 there 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.