



Mechanicsville News



2010 CENSUS: **IT'S IN OUR HANDS**

An Introduction to the 2010 Census

*Counting Everyone Once — and
Only Once — and In the Right
Place*

The foundation of our American democracy is dependent on fair and equitable representation in Congress. In order to achieve an accurate assessment of the number and location of the people living within the nation's borders, the U.S. Constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years.

The census population totals determine which states gain or lose representation in Congress. It also determines the amount of state and federal funding communities receive over the course of the decade. 2010 Census data will directly affect how more than \$3 trillion is allocated to local, state and tribal governments over the next 10 years. In order for this funding allocation to be accomplished fairly and accurately, the goal of the decennial census is to count everybody, count them only once, and count them in the right place. The facts gathered in the census also help shape decisions

for the rest of the decade about public health, neighborhood improvements, transportation, education, senior services and much more.

Reaching an Increasingly Diverse Population

The goal of the 2010 Census is to count all residents living in the United States on **April 1, 2010**. The U.S. Census Bureau does not ask about the legal status of respondents in any of its surveys and census programs. To help ensure the nation's increasingly diverse population can answer the questionnaire accurately and completely, about 13 million bilingual Spanish/English forms will be mailed to housing units in neighborhoods identified as requiring high levels of Spanish assistance. Additionally, questionnaires in Spanish, Chinese (Simplified), Korean, Vietnamese and Russian as well as language guides in 59 languages will be available on request.

Recruiting Census Workers

By 2010, there will be an estimated 310 million people residing in the United States. Counting each person is one of the largest operations the federal government

undertakes. For example, the Census Bureau will recruit nearly 3.8 million applicants for 2010 Census field operations. Of these applicants, the Census Bureau will hire about 1.4 million temporary employees. Some of these employees will be using GPS-equipped hand-held computers to update maps and ensure there is an accurate address list for the mailing of the census questionnaires.

10 Questions, 10 Minutes to Complete

With one of the shortest questionnaires in history, the 2010 Census asks for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether you own or rent your home. It takes only about 10 minutes for the average household to complete. Questions about *how* we live as a nation our diversity, education, housing, jobs and more are now covered in the American Community Survey, which is conducted every year throughout the decade and replaces the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire. Responses to the 2010 Census questionnaire are required by law. All responses are used for statistical purposes only, and all are strictly confidential.

For more information, visit the 2010 Census Web site at <http://www.census.gov/2010>.

SEVERE WEATHER SEASON IS UPON US BE PREPARED-ARE YOU READY!

The information printed below has been selected to help citizens learn how to protect themselves and their families against some of the frequent weather hazards experienced in this area and to serve as a refresher for community awareness about the natural disasters that can occur frequently. The focus of the content is that one should plan and prepare for severe weather incidents and home emergencies before they happen, develop, practice, and maintain emergency plans that reflect what must be done before, during, and after a disaster to protect people and their property. Additional information is available on the link attached to the city's web site: Be Prepared-ARE YOU READY?

The City of Mechanicsville has an outdoor warning siren system to alert residents of tornado warnings. For a **TORNADO WARNING**: A long continuous siren (for 8 minutes) is sounded when it is necessary to warn the citizens to take cover. There is no all clear siren, so you must be prepared when you take cover to have a portable radio or some means of keeping advised of the weather situation.

It is an Outdoor warning siren. Outdoor warning sirens are the most effective method to warn people at large in the shortest amount of time that a hazard exists. They are designed to warn people that are outside and not inside a residence or building. If the outdoor warning sirens are activated, residents should immediately seek shelter and determine the nature of the hazard by listening to the local radio or television or NOAA Weather Radio.

The decision to activate the outdoor warning sirens is based on information that is avail-

able at the time. Sometimes this information is incomplete and changes rapidly. The outdoor warning sirens will be activated in order to give residents as much time as possible to take measures to ensure their safety.

The National Weather Service will issue a **SEVERE WEATHER WATCH** or **TORNADO WATCH** when conditions are favorable for their development. Listen to your local news or radio stations or NOAA Weather Radio for up-to-date weather information.

The National Weather Service will issue a **SEVERE WEATHER WARNING** or **TORNADO WARNING** when severe weather or a tornado has been detected by Doppler radar or sighted by storm spotters. Seek safe shelter immediately when a warning is issued—get to the lowest level of your home---away from the windows and under something sturdy. Continue to monitor your local news or radio stations or NOAA Weather Radio for up-to-date weather information.

Tornado Safety Tips

Whether practicing a tornado drill or sheltering during a tornado warning, you are encouraged to **DUCK**.

D – Go **DOWN** to the lowest level

U – Get **UNDER** something

C – **COVER** your head

K – **KEEP** in shelter until the storm has passed

Be prepared for severe weather before a storm watch or warning is issued. Meet with household members to develop a disaster plan to respond to all hazards, including tornado watches and warnings. Conduct regular tornado drills. Know how to turn off the water, gas and electric at the main switches.

The NOAA Weather Radio has alerting tools available for people who are hearing impaired. Some weather radio receivers can be connected to an existing home security system, similar as a doorbell, smoke detector or other sensor. For additional information, visit the NWS NOAA Weather Radio link: http://www.weather.gov/nwr/special_need.htm

The safest place to be during a tornado is a basement. If the building has no basement or cellar, go to a small, centrally located room on the lowest level of the building, such as a bathroom or closet or interior hallway.

If you are in a vehicle, trailer or mobile home, get out immediately and go to the lowest floor of a sturdy, nearby building or storm shelter. Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little or no protection from tornadoes.

If you are outside with no shelter, lie in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands. Do not

seek shelter under a highway overpass or bridge. You will be exposed to stronger winds and flying debris.

If you are:	Then:
In a forest	Seek shelter in a low area under a thick growth of small trees.
In an open area	Go to a low place such as a ravine or valley. Be alert for flash floods.
On open water	Get to land and find shelter immediately.

Anywhere you feel your hair stand on end (which indicates that lightning is about to strike) Squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands over your ears and your head between your knees. Make yourself the smallest target possible and minimize your contact with the ground. DO NOT lie flat on the ground.

Extreme Heat

Heat kills by pushing the human body beyond its limits. In extreme heat and high humidity, evaporation is slowed and the body must work extra hard to maintain a normal temperature.

Most heat disorders occur because the victim has been overexposed to heat or has over-exercised for his or her age and physical condition. Older adults, young children, and those who are sick or overweight are more likely to succumb to extreme heat.

Conditions that can induce heat-related illnesses include stagnant atmospheric conditions and poor air quality. Consequently, people living in urban areas may be at greater risk from the effects of a prolonged heat wave than those living in rural areas. Also, asphalt and concrete store heat longer and gradually release heat at night, which can produce higher nighttime temperatures known as the "urban heat island effect."

How can I protect myself from extreme heat?

Extreme Heat: Know the Terms

Heat Wave

Prolonged period of excessive heat, often combined with excessive humidity.

Heat Index

A number in degrees Fahrenheit (F) that tells how hot it feels when relative humidity is added to the air temperature. Exposure to full sunshine can increase the heat index by 15 degrees.

Heat Cramps

Muscular pains and spasms due to heavy exertion. Although heat cramps are the least severe, they are often the first signal that the body is having trouble with the heat.

Heat Exhaustion

Typically occurs when people exercise heavily or work in a hot, humid place where body fluids are lost through heavy sweating. Blood flow to the skin increases, causing blood flow to decrease to the vital organs. This results in a form of mild shock. If not treated, the victim's condition will worsen. Body temperature will keep rising and the victim may suffer heat stroke.

Heat Stroke

A life-threatening condition. The victim's temperature control system, which produces sweating to cool the body, stops working. The body temperature can rise so high that brain damage and death may result if the body is not cooled quickly.

Sun Stroke

Another term for heat stroke.

Before Extreme Heat

To prepare for extreme heat, you should:

- Install window air conditioners snugly; insulate if necessary.
- Check air-conditioning ducts for proper insulation.
- Install temporary window reflectors (for use between windows and drapes), such as aluminum foil-covered cardboard, to reflect heat back outside.
- Weather-strip doors and sills to keep cool air in.
- Cover windows that receive morning or afternoon sun with drapes, shades, awnings, or louvers. (Outdoor awnings or louvers can reduce the heat that enters a home by up to 80 percent.)
- Keep storm windows up all year.

During a Heat Emergency

What you should do if the weather is extremely hot:

- Stay indoors as much as possible and limit exposure to the sun.
- Stay on the lowest floor out of the sunshine if air conditioning is not available.
- Consider spending the warmest part of the day in public buildings such as libraries, schools, movie theaters, shopping malls, and other community facilities. Cir-

culating air can cool the body by increasing the perspiration rate of evaporation.

- Eat well-balanced, light, and regular meals. Avoid using salt tablets unless directed to do so by a physician.
- Drink plenty of water. Persons who have epilepsy or heart, kidney, or liver disease; are on fluid-restricted diets; or have a problem with fluid retention should consult a doctor before increasing liquid intake.
- Limit intake of alcoholic beverages.
- Dress in loose-fitting, lightweight, and light-colored clothes that cover as much skin as possible.
- Protect face and head by wearing a wide-brimmed hat.
- Check on family, friends, and neighbors who do not have air conditioning and who spend much of their time alone.
- Never leave children or pets alone in closed vehicles..
- Avoid strenuous work during the warmest part of the day. Use a buddy system when working in extreme heat, and take frequent breaks.

IT'S UP TO YOU!

After you have received the information, warning or observed threatening skies, YOU must make the decision to seek shelter before the storm arrives and determine how prepared you will be. *It could be the most important decision you will ever make.*



Park Board

The City of Mechanicsville is looking for volunteers to be appointed to the newly created Park Board. Seeking men and women from the rural area as well as from within the city limits. Contact City Hall.

Burning: Current Ordinance

105.05 OPEN BURNING RESTRICTED. No person shall allow, cause or permit open burning of combustible materials where the products of combustion are emitted into the open air without passing through a chimney or stack, **except that open burning is permitted in the following circumstances:**

(IAC, 567-23.2[455B] and 567-100.2)

Disaster Rubbish. The open burning of rubbish, including landscape waste, for the duration of the community disaster period in cases where an officially declared emergency condition exists, provided that the burning of any structures or demolished structures is conducted in accordance with 40 CFR Section 61.145.

(IAC, 567-23.2[3a])

Trees and Tree Trimmings. The open burning of trees and tree trimmings at a City-operated burning site, provided such burning is conducted in compliance with the rules established by the State Department of Natural Resources.

(IAC, 567-23.2[3b])

Flare Stacks. The open burning or flaring of waste gases, provided such open burning or

flaring is conducted in compliance with applicable rules of the State Department of Natural Resources.

(IAC, 567-23.2[3c])

Landscape Waste. The disposal by open burning of landscape waste originating on the premises. However, the burning of landscape waste produced in clearing, grubbing and construction operations shall be limited to areas located at least one-fourth ($\frac{1}{4}$) mile from any building inhabited by other than the landowner or tenant conducting the open burning. Rubber tires shall not be used to ignite landscape waste.

(IAC, 567-23.2[3d])

Recreational Fires. Open fires for cooking, heating, recreation and ceremonies, provided they comply with the limits for emission of visible air contaminants established by the State Department of Natural Resources. Rubber tires shall not be burned in a recreational fire.

(IAC, 567-23.2[3e])

Residential Waste. Backyard burning of residential waste at dwellings of four-family units or less.

(IAC, 567-23.2[3f])

Training Fires. Fires set for the purpose of conducting bona fide training of public or industrial employees in fire fighting methods, provided that the training fires are conducted in compliance with rules established by the State Department of Natural Resources.

(IAC, 567-23.2[3g])

Pesticide Containers and Seed Corn Bags. The disposal by open burning of paper or plastic pesticide containers (except those formerly containing organic forms of beryllium, selenium, mercury, lead, cadmium or arsenic) and seed corn bags resulting from farming activities occurring on the premises if burned in accordance with rules estab-

Your opinion please

The above ordinance has been in place for several years, recent complaints about smoldering burn barrels and smoke entering open windows has prompted council to review the ordinance and seek your input. If you live within the city limits, your response to the following questions is request and may be put in the drop box at city hall or submitted with you next water bill payment.

Should the burning of residential waste be more restrictive? Yes No

Should residential burning be allowed on just certain days of the week/month?
Yes No If yes, what days?

Should residential burning be restricted to certain hours of a day? Yes No If yes, what hours?

Should residential burning be eliminated entirely (not permitted at all)? Yes No

Should any of the other exceptions that are currently allowed be banned? Yes No , If yes which ones?

Should the ordinance be left alone? Yes No

Electrical Permit Requirements

Iowa Statewide Electrical Permits and Inspections started March 1, 2009

New construction: Electrical permits will be required for all new electrical installations including residential, commercial, and industrial in all areas of the state that are not currently under the jurisdiction of a political subdivision which performs electrical inspections.

Existing Construction:

Electrical permits will be required for all new installations and alterations unless all of the following conditions apply: 1) The installation is under the direct supervision of a licensed electrician. 2) The installation does not in anyway involve work within a new or existing switchboard or panel board. 3) The line to ground installation does not exceed 30 amperes. 4) The line to ground installation does not exceed 277 volts single phase.

Routine Maintenance: Electrical permits will not be required for routine maintenance. Routine Maintenance has been defined as "the repair or replacement of existing electrical apparatus or equipment of the same size and type for which no changes in wiring are made".

For more information, contact the State Electrical Inspector Supervisor. Pat Hansen, SE Electrical Inspector Supervisor (319) 430-4916. For electrical license information, access the web site: iowaelectrical.gov or call 1-866-923-1082.

NOTE: The City of Mechanicsville does not perform electrical inspections. Permits needed within the city limits would fall under the jurisdiction of the state.

City Wide Garage Sales

June 27 is the date that has been set for the City Wide Garage Sales. Register at City Hall by June 10, 2009 \$5.00, include your name, address, and a short list of items you will have for sale. The registration fee will cover the cost of ads, maps, and a sign.



Farmer's Market
Tuesday afternoons
4-6
Across from City Hall



Make a difference

Have you ever considered the importance of living in a sustainable manner, one that will not jeopardize the ability of future generations to meet their needs? Would you be willing to take the pledge? Commit to simple, achievable actions, lead by example and make a big difference in our children's future:

I Pledge to fill my recycle bin with acceptable material as often as I discard these items.

I can eliminate 800 pounds of wasted resources per year.

Together all of Mechanicsville can eliminate 193 tons of landfill resources and 150 tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year.

City of Mechanicsville

100 E FIRST ST
PO BOX 339
Mechanicsville, IA 52306

Phone: 563-432-7756
Fax: 563-432-7199
Email: mechanicsville@netins.net

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ECRWSS
US Postage Paid
Mechanicsville, IA 52306
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Heaven Amongst the Cedars



Box Holder

