

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 8, 2011

Contact: State Joint Information Center
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Contact: Governor's Office
515-725-3518

Missouri River Flooding – State Joint Information Center Update

DES MOINES – The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD), along with other state and federal agencies, are working closely with local emergency management agencies to prepare communities for the potential impacts of flooding. Currently, Iowa HSEMD is hosting coordination meetings with key state agency and private industry partners every other day.

Iowa HSEMD staff have partially activated the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) and a Joint Information Center with staff from multiple agencies has also been established in Johnston.

General State Response

- **NEW** Iowa HSEMD continues to support requests from local emergency management agencies to include sand, sandbags, pumps, life vests, etc.
- **NEW** Iowa Department of Transportation continues to provide staging areas for resources and transportation of resources to areas of need.
- **NEW** The Iowa Department of Corrections is continuing to provide inmate assistance for sandbagging where needed.
- The State has requested technical assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for all counties along the Missouri River from Woodbury County south.

Iowa Concern Hotline and 2-1-1

Citizens in the affected areas may call the **Iowa Concern Hotline** at **1-800-447-1985**. When flooding is a concern in the state, Iowa State University Extension's Iowa Concern hotline is available for those who need assistance. The Iowa Concern Hotline is available 24 hours a day. All calls are free and confidential, and the operators are willing to assist wherever possible.

In addition, residents may call **2-1-1** with questions or concerns about the flooding and steps they should take. 2-1-1 is an easy to remember telephone number that connects callers to information about critical health and human services available in their community.

Weather

For updated weather information, visit the National Weather Service website at www.weather.gov.

Evacuations

- **NEW** Evacuations by local officials still have taken place only within the cities of Council Bluffs (Pottawattamie County) and Hamburg (Fremont County).
- **NEW** Residents are continuing to voluntarily evacuate in the city of Modale (Harrison County).

I-29 Corridor and Road Closure Information

- **NEW I-680 westbound:** As of 3 p.m. Tuesday, June 7, I-680 Exit 1 westbound has water on the ramp, resulting in half of the ramp being coned off. Water is approaching the shoulder just east of I-680 near Exit 1. (Pottawattamie County)
- **Iowa State Highway 2 eastbound:** Right line is closed between the start of IA 2 and County Road L31 (14-15 miles west of the Sidney area) due to flooding. (Fremont County)
- **U.S. Highway 30 in both directions:** Roadway is reduced to one lane between the start of U.S. 30 and County Road K45 (7 miles west of the Missouri Valley area). The roadway is reduced to one lane because of bridge maintenance work. (Harrison County)
- **Information:** Citizens may find updated road information online at www.511ia.org or by calling 5-1-1 or 1-800-288-1047.

COUNTY BY COUNTY

Woodbury County

- Woodbury County remains actively engaged in flood protection activities along the Missouri River.
- The Woodbury County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is open daily from 7 a.m.–7 p.m.
- **NEW** Twenty pumps will be provided to the county by Iowa HSEMD.
- **NEW** The U.S. Coast Guard has established a new Safety Zone for the Big Sioux River. At the request of the South Dakota governor's office, the Captain of the Port has closed the Big Sioux River to all vessel traffic from the Military Road Bridge at North Sioux City, S.D. to the confluence with the Missouri River. This closure covers the lower five miles of the river.
- **NEW** In addition, the Missouri River is now closed to **all** vessel traffic from Gavin's Point Lock & Dam at Yankton, S.D. to the Iowa/Missouri border.
- **NEW** Iowa Department of Transportation has provided dump trucks and drivers to Sioux City.
- There were false reports concerning the impact of the flooding at the Sioux City water plant. There are currently no concerns with the Sioux City water plant.
- Woodbury County Road Closures:
 - Chris Larsen Park Road is closed to the public.
 - I-29 southbound: Exit ramp closed at Exit 149 (Hamilton Blvd.).

Monona County

- **NEW** City of Blencoe is expected to experience the most significant impact in the county. Local officials are currently looking at evacuation planning in the event an evacuation is needed.
- **NEW** Iowa Department of Natural Resources has requested 300 sandbags to protect structures in Lewis and Clark State Park in Onawa.
- **NEW** Iowa Department of Transportation has provided dump trucks and drivers to Blue Lake.
- **NEW** It does not appear that the cities of Onawa or Whiting will need to evacuate.
- Monona County Closures (same as 6/7/11):
 - Hazel Ave. from Blencoe exchange north to pumpkin farm.
 - Both roads under the Decatur Bridge.
 - Casino Omaha is closed as of June 1.

Harrison County

- **NEW** The Iowa Department of Public Health is working with the county on technical assistance for impacts at cemeteries.
- **NEW** The Missouri Valley DOT maintenance shed was evacuated due to high water threat.
- **NEW** The Iowa Department of Corrections continues to provide inmate assistance to assist in filling sandbags.
- **NEW** Resources have been requested and received to include life vests and sandbags.

Pottawattamie County

- **NEW** Council Bluffs now has a flood hotline at 712-328-4672.
- **NEW** Iowa HSEMD has provided 4,700 ft. of HESCO barriers to Council Bluffs.
- MidAmerican Energy has cut power to residences on Emil Avenue/Gifford Road/Goosehaven and they have purchased HESCO barriers for protection of Walter Scott Station.
- The County Emergency Management Agency and the Loess Hills American Red Cross Chapter have established an emergency shelter should it be needed for those displaced by flooding so citizens have a safe place to stay while they make long-term arrangements for housing during this event. Displaced residents should make arrangements to stay with friends or family for 60-90 days based on Army Corps of Engineers information regarding river levels.
 - Shelter Status: Shelter #1: STAND-BY: To contact the Red Cross for shelter information or other assistance questions, call 712-322-4017
 - Pets in Disaster: Family pets are not allowed at the temporary Red Cross shelter. County residents that have been displaced may temporarily house their pets at the Pottawattamie County Animal Shelter at NO CHARGE. However, space is limited and will be determined on a first come, first served basis.

- Road Closures in Pottawattamie County can be found online:
<http://gis3.pottcounty.com/roadclosures/RoadClosures.htm>
- Road Closures in Pottawattamie County:
 - Big Lake Road (near park)
 - Gifford Road near Dog Bite Lane.

Mills County

- **NEW** The city of Pacific Junction has requested 48,000 sandbags and sand to fill them. Iowa HSEMD is filling the request.
- **NEW** The Pacific Junction Fire Department has requested a 50 KVA generator and the city of Pacific Junction has requested three 75 KVA generators for Pacific Junction pump stations. Iowa HSEMD will provide the equipment.
- **NEW** The city of Glenwood has requested 16,000 sandbags and sand to fill them. Iowa HSEMD is filling the request.
- County Emergency Management flood information online:
<http://www.millscoia.us/flood2011.htm>
- Mills County has established a flood hotline at 712-527-4231
- No emergency evacuations have taken place.

Fremont County

- **NEW** The city of Hamburg is adding dirt to the top of their levee. They have sandbags staged to barricade the openings in the levee as the water levels increase.
- **NEW** Johnson County has provided three sandbag-filling machines and one “quick levee” machine to the county.
- **NEW** The American Red Cross has opened and is managing a shelter at Sidney High School for displaced residents. Two residents were there overnight.
- The Army Corp of Engineers continues to provide technical assistance throughout the county.
- Road Closures in Fremont County (same as 6/7/11):
 - Dike Road from 210th Avenue to Highway 2
 - 185th Avenue from Highway 2 to 235th Street
 - 185th Street from 200th Street to 190th Avenue
 - Levy Road from 135th Street
 - 187th Avenue from 135th Street to 155th Street
 - 190th Avenue from Plum Creek to 187th Avenue
 - 310th Street from 240th Avenue to River Access
 - 290th Street from 250th Avenue to River
 - 290th Street from 250th Avenue to Levee
 - Waubonsie Avenue from 200th Avenue to River
 - 100th Street from 200th Avenue to River
 - 280th Street East of 59 to Fremont Avenue (Closed for Repairs)

Donations and Volunteering

- **Donations of “stuff” (clothing, miscellaneous food items, household goods, etc.) are NOT needed at this time. This is not the time to clean out your closet to send to those in counties affected by flooding.** Unsolicited donations cause additional staffing and storage problems that local officials do not have the resources to manage.
- **If you want to help, cash is best.** It doesn't need to be sorted, stored or distributed, and cash allows the receiving voluntary agency to direct the donation to the most urgent needs. To donate cash, visit www.aidmatrixnetwork.org/CashDonations/Default2.aspx?ST=Iowa
- Those wishing to volunteer in a disaster-related capacity may sign up to do so at <https://volunteer.truist.com/icovs/volunteer/register/>.

More Links and Social Media

- Donation, volunteer, county-specific links and more can be found on the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) website at www.iowahomelandsecurity.org.
- Those wishing to follow the events via Twitter should follow and use the hash tag #MORiver. This hash tag will be used throughout the duration of flooding along the Missouri River.
- Additionally, Gov. Branstad's office has set up a webpage, <https://governor.iowa.gov/news/missouri-river-flooding>, for Iowans to get updates on flooding along the Missouri River.

Live Streaming of Today's Daily Flood Briefing

Until further notice, a briefing about the flood situation along the Missouri River will take place daily at 3:30 p.m. Visit www.iowahomelandsecurity.org or <https://governor.iowa.gov/news/missouri-river-flooding> for more information.

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