

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 10, 2011

Contact: State Joint Information Center
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Missouri River Flooding – State Joint Information Center Update

DES MOINES – The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) officially activated the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) at 7 a.m. today in response to the flooding situation in Western Iowa.

Personnel from the Iowa National Guard, Department of Human Services, Department of Public Safety, Department of Transportation, Department of Natural Resources and other agencies as appropriate will be working with HSEMD from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. daily.

NEW Gov. Terry E. Branstad will join Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) Administrator Derek Hill, today, to visit flood-affected communities in Western Iowa.

Gov. Branstad and Hill will visit with local workers staging for sandbagging efforts, meet with local officials and hold a press conference in Council Bluffs regarding flooding along the Missouri River following the flight.

The following events are open to the media:

Friday, June 10, 2011

2:00 p.m. Gov. Branstad and Derek Hill meet with workers staging for sandbagging efforts

Mid America Center

1 Arena Way

Council Bluffs, IA

3:30 p.m. Gov. Branstad and Derek Hill hold press conference regarding flooding along the Missouri River

Council Bluffs City Hall – City Council Chambers

209 Pearl Street

Council Bluffs, IA

General State Response

- Iowa HSEMD continues to support requests from local emergency management agencies to include sand, sandbags, pumps, life vests, etc.
- Iowa Department of Transportation continues to provide staging areas for resources and transportation of resources to areas of need.
- 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

- Approximately 100 homes in Council Bluffs have been evacuated; the number of people in those homes is unknown. (Pottawattamie County)
- Approximately 200-300 people have been evacuated in the city of Hamburg (Fremont County).
- Residents are continuing to voluntarily evacuate in the city of Modale (Harrison County). The number of people who have self-evacuated is unknown.

I-29 Corridor and Road Closure Information

- **NEW** Earlier than scheduled and because of faster rising flood waters, **all southbound and northbound lanes of Interstate 29 between mile marker 61 (near Crescent) and the I-680/I-29 interchange at mile marker 71 (near Loveland) have been closed**. A detour map is available on DOT’s website: www.iowadot.gov/floods/index.html (Pottawattamie County)
- **Iowa State Highway 2 eastbound:** One lane is closed west of I-29. (Fremont County)
- **I-29 Hamilton Boulevard interchange:** The I-29 interchange ramps at Hamilton Boulevard in Sioux City are closed. (Woodbury 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.

Other Highway Segments that Continue to be at High Risk Due to Flooding

- **I-29, U.S. 275 and Iowa 333 at Hamburg in Fremont County:** Temporary repairs have been made to the levee in Atchison County, Missouri, to delay a full breach. The timing of the closure of these roadways hinges on the full breach.

- **Iowa 2 in Fremont County:** Presently, the outside eastbound lane of Iowa 2 is closed. The westbound lanes remain open.
- **Iowa 376 (U.S. 75 Business) from north of Gordon Drive to Third Street in Sioux City**

COUNTY BY COUNTY

Woodbury County

- The Woodbury County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is open daily from 7 a.m.–7 p.m.
- 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.
- 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.
- Woodbury County Road Closures:
 - Chris Larsen Park Rd.
 - I-29 southbound: Exit ramp closed at Exit 149 (Hamilton Blvd.)

Monona County

- 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.
- It does not appear that the cities of Onawa or Whiting will need to evacuate.
- Casino Omaha is closed as of June 1.
- Monona County Road Closures:
 - 260th from K45 to Hazel Ave.
 - 130th at Alder to River
 - Ash Ave. from 100th to 120th
 - 110th from Ash Ave. to Alder
 - 100th at Alder to River
 - 110th and Ash Ave. (Level B road)
 - Filbert north of 305th (Huffs)
 - Hazel Ave./284th (Louisville Bend)
 - Hazel Ave. from Blencoe exchange north to pumpkin farm.
 - Both roads under the Decatur Bridge.

Harrison County

- The Missouri Valley DOT maintenance shed was evacuated due to high water threat.
- The Iowa Department of Corrections continues to provide inmate assistance to assist in filling sandbags.
- Resources have been requested and received to include life vests and sandbags.

Pottawattamie County

- Council Bluffs now has a flood hotline at 712-328-4672.
- 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 Rd. (near park)
 - Gifford Rd. near Dog Bite Lane

Mills County

- 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.
- Road Closures in Mills County:
 - 180th St. at the Burlington Northern/Santa Fe Railroad
 - Karnes Rd. between U.S. 34 and Burlington Northern/Santa Fe Railroad

Fremont County

- The American Red Cross has opened and is managing a shelter at Sidney High School for displaced residents.
- Road Closures in Fremont County:
 - Dike Rd. from 210th Ave. to Hwy. 2
 - 185th Ave. from Hwy. 2 to 235th St.
 - 185th St. from 200th St. to 190th Ave.
 - Levy Rd. from 135th St.

- 187th Ave. from 135th Street to 155th St.
- 190th Ave. from Plum Creek to 187th Ave.
- 310th St. from 240th Ave. to River Access
- 290th St. from 250th Ave. to River
- 290th St. from 250th Ave. to Levee
- Waubonsie Ave. from 200th Ave. to River
- 100th St. from 200th Ave. to River
- 280th St. East of 59 to Fremont Ave. (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

- **NEW** The Office of Governor Terry E. Branstad has launched of the Iowa “Flood Watch Flickr Page.” The page will be updated regularly with the most up-to-date aerial photos taken by various state agencies. The photos can be found at: www.Flickr.com/MoRiverFlood.
- **NEW** The Iowa Department of Public Health’s Flood Page contains FAQs and fact sheets regarding health and safety during flooding. Visit www.idph.state.ia.us/EmergencyResponse/Flooding.aspx.
- 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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