

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 6, 2011

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## **Missouri River Flooding – Iowa State Joint Information Center Update**

DES MOINES – This update is provided by the Joint Information Center at the State Emergency Operations Center.

### **Media Conference Calls**

The next media conference call will be held Thursday (July 7) at 3:30 p.m.

- Conference Call Dial-In Number – 1-800-645-8878
- Conference Code: 003252

*Same conference call information to be used on each call.*

### **NEW – Governor and HSEMD Administrator Visit Flood-Affected Communities Today**

Gov. Terry E. Branstad and HSEMD Administrator Brig. Gen. Derek Hill are visiting the communities of Blencoe, Missouri Valley and Pacific Junction today, July 6.

The following events are open to the media

Noon –Blencoe

Gov. Branstad and Iowa HSEMD Administrator Brig. Gen. Derek Hill meet with local officials, hold media availability at the Monona County Maintenance Building, 201 South Front Street

1:20 p.m. – Missouri Valley

Gov. Branstad and Iowa HSEMD Administrator Brig. Gen. Derek Hill meet with local officials, hold media availability at Missouri Valley City Hall, 223 E. Erie Street

3:10 p.m. -- Pacific Junction

Gov. Branstad and Iowa HSEMD Administrator Brig. Gen. Derek Hill meet with local officials, hold media availability at A&M Greenpower, 58702 190<sup>th</sup> Street

For more information, please visit [www.Governor.Iowa.gov](http://www.Governor.Iowa.gov).

### **Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments Being Conducted Today**

Today teams of state, local and federal officials will assess damage to homes and businesses impacted by Missouri River flooding.

Teams of representatives from the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Small Business

Administration (SBA) and county officials, are conducting assessments in six counties: Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona, Pottawattamie and Woodbury.

Information collected during the assessments will be used to determine if damages that have occurred thus far are sufficient to warrant a request for federal Individual Assistance Program funding. The Individual Assistance program provides funding to eligible homeowners, renters and businesses to help pay for temporary housing, home repairs and other disaster-related expenses not covered by insurance or other aid programs.

### **State Response Summary**

- **Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD)**

- HSEMD continues to work closely with personnel from various local, state, federal, voluntary and faith-based organizations as well as private partners in response to flooding along the Missouri River in western Iowa.
- The State Emergency Operations Center will be staffed as warranted to respond to requests from impacted counties.
- HSEMD has requested technical assistance from the Army Corps of Engineers for all counties along the Missouri River from Woodbury County south.

- **Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service**

- Ongoing support of missions assigned, including access to volunteer and AmeriCorps resources.

- **Iowa Department of Public Health (DPH)**

- Continued support in responding to public health concerns that have been raised in impacted counties.
- The Iowa Department of Public Health has issued information on the health-related dangers of flood waters, the emotional toll flooding can have, and healthy habits that are critical during stressful times. See this and other flood-related health information at: [www.idph.state.ia.us/EmergencyResponse/Flooding.aspx](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/EmergencyResponse/Flooding.aspx).

- **Iowa Finance Authority (IFA)**

- **Foreclosure prevention;** Disaster-impacted homeowners that feel they may begin to struggle with their mortgage payment are encouraged to call Iowa Mortgage Help at **877-622-4866** or visit [www.IowaMortgageHelp.com](http://www.IowaMortgageHelp.com). Iowa Mortgage Help offers free, confidential mortgage counseling for Iowa homeowners.
- IFA has developed a rental housing resource guide for individuals who are seeking long term housing due to flooding. Access the guide at: [www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/disasters/disaster2011.html](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/disasters/disaster2011.html) and select "Housing Resources."

- **Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS)**
  - Continual monitoring of impacts to agriculture sector.
  
- **Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS)**
  - The DHS Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team (DBHRT) continues to distribute information and provide resources to flood-impacted residents who may be feeling anxious and overwhelmed. For additional information on resources provided by the DBHRT, visit <http://www.iowadbhrt.org/>.
  
- **Iowa National Guard (NG)**
  - **NEW** - National Guard providing air assets for Individual Assistance damage assessments.
  - National Guard performing levee patrol duties in Mills and Pottawattamie counties.
  - National Guard liaisons are in place in all county EOCs.
  - Providing support through Guard Emergency Situational Awareness Contacts in impacted counties.
  
- **Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT)**
  - **NEW** - The DOT is reporting that installation of the flood barriers along portions of the north side of U.S. 30 from the Missouri River crossing at Blair, Nebraska, to Interstate 29 near Missouri Valley, Iowa, will begin today, July 6. Work will be performed around-the-clock and will take approximately 48 hours. The Iowa portion of the detour is: I-29 south to I-680E, take I-680E to I-80W, and then take I-80W to the Iowa/Nebraska state line at Council Bluffs/Omaha. The public will be notified when the roadway is reopened to travel.
  - The DOT has made numerous road closures. For complete information on road closures, visit [www.iowadot.gov/floods/index.html](http://www.iowadot.gov/floods/index.html) or [www.511ia.org](http://www.511ia.org), or call 5-1-1 or 1-800-288-1047.
  - Call center established for road closures: 1-866-452-8510.
  
- **Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR)**
  - People who have been evacuated because of flooding along the Missouri River will be able to camp in certain areas of Iowa State Parks without having to pay a camping fee or having to leave after 14 consecutive days. Camping spots that are not part of the reservation system will be open to people evacuated from their homes on a first come, first serve basis. Evacuees may call the DNR at 515-281-8004 to check on availability of campsites for long-term use.
  - DNR is providing technical assistance to waste water facilities, water supplies, industry, fuel stations, etc.
  - Weather-related park closure information is available at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/parks/construction/weather.html>

- **Iowa Department of Corrections (DOC)**

- The DOC has had inmates assisting sandbagging efforts in Woodbury County.
- In Mills County inmates will be filling sandbags and working on the levee system.
- Inmates in Clarinda continue to fill sandbags that will remain on site at the facility until they are needed.

- **Iowa Department of Public Safety (DPS)**

- The DPS continues to provide aerial photography of impacts to affected counties.
- The DPS continues to monitor roads, road closures and other public safety issues.

**EVACUATION SUMMARY**

<b>County</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Population</b>
Woodbury		0
Monona	17 Homes	39
Harrison	Modale	200-300 voluntary evacuation
Pottawattamie	143 homes in the county	unknown
Mills	June 23-mandatory evacuation notice issued for residences/businesses south of Gaston Ave. and west of I-29.	unknown
Fremont	Mandatory evacuation in effect in the South Hamburg area – between Hamburg and the Missouri River (south end of City of Hamburg)  June 22-Fremont County issued evacuation orders for all areas of the county west of I-29 from the north county line to the south county line.	300+  unknown

**SHELTER SUMMARY – IOWA SHELTERS**

**NEW** - A shelter in Council Bluffs housed one resident overnight on July 5. Numerous shelters remain on standby and are ready to receive residents if needed.

**County updates**

- **Woodbury**

- The county is working with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) regarding repairs to the ACOE road built earlier this month to access a sandbagged collector well head.
- Inmates are providing sandbagging assistance.

- <http://www.woodburyiowa.com/>
- **Monona**
  - No new information to report.
  - <http://www.mononacountypublichealth.org/>
- **Harrison**
  - No new information to report.
  - <http://www.harrisoncountya.org/>
- **Pottawattamie**
  - The ACOE is continuing to work with the City of Council Bluffs to ensure stability of the levees.
  - The local emergency management agency has requested a pump that will be supplied by HSEMD and transported to the county.
  - The City of Council Bluffs issued an Alert Level One late June 22, urging citizens to make preparations to leave the area should the need arise.
  - <http://www.pottcounty.com/departments-services/emergency-management/flooding.php>
- **Mills**
  - The ACOE is working on identified boil areas on the county's levee structures.
  - Inmates from the Department of Corrections continue to assist with sandbagging.
  - Mills County issued a mandatory evacuation order on June 23 for citizens living west of I-29 from Gaston Ave. south to the Fremont County line. County officials said there is no imminent threat to the levee system, however, rural roads that would have to be used in an evacuation in the area are becoming impassable due to the rise in groundwater.
  - <http://www.millscoia.us/flood2011.htm>
- **Fremont**
  - The ACOE continues work on the Hamburg levee project.
  - AmeriCorps volunteers continue to provide levee monitoring in Hamburg.
  - On June 22 Fremont County issued evacuation orders for all areas of the county west of Interstate 29 from the north county line to the south county line. The evacuation order was the result of deteriorating levees and additional expected releases from Gavins Point.
  - <http://www.co.fremont.ia.us/fremontcoemergencymanagement.htm>
  - <http://www.facebook.com/pages/2011-Fremont-County-IA-Flood-Support/232438310105233>

### **Donations and Volunteering**

- **Donations of items such as clothing, food, furniture, etc, are NOT needed at this time.** 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](http://www.aidmatrixnetwork.org/CashDonations/Default2.aspx?ST=iowa).
- If you wish to make a donation to a local organization, information on these funds can be found on the websites listed in the "County Updates" section of this release.
- Those wishing to volunteer in a disaster-related capacity may sign up to do so at [www.volunteeriowa.org](http://www.volunteeriowa.org).

### **Scams**

Iowans along the Missouri River should be aware of the potential for disaster-related scams and price gouging. For information, visit the Iowa Attorney General's website at: [www.iowaAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.iowaAttorneyGeneral.gov).

### **For More Information**

- For more information, please visit [www.iowahomelandsecurity.org](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org).
- <https://governor.iowa.gov/news/missouri-river-flooding>.