

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 28, 2011

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

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 weekly media conference call will be held Aug. 3 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.

Please Note: For updates and information on the July 10-11 severe storms in Benton, Marshall, Story and Tama counties, visit www.iowahomelandsecurity.org and select the 2011 Storms link.

NEWS AND UPDATES

Stay Aware, Be Prepared

Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) reminds Iowans that flooding along the Missouri River is continuing, and river levels are projected to remain high for many more weeks. It is important that residents in threatened areas remain prepared in case conditions change. Keeping a bag packed with essential items and establishing a family evacuation plan will help Iowans be ready to evacuate if an order is given.

Crisis Counseling

The Iowa **Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team** (DBHRT) is a trained team of volunteers who will respond to the mental health needs of Iowa residents following disasters and critical incidents. The team provides services for community providers based on local area needs and may be delivered at a disaster site in an affected community or statewide. For more information go to <http://www.iowadbhrt.org/>, or visit the Iowa Department of Human Services "Storm Help" website at http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/Consumers/Assistance_Programs/CashAssistance/DisasterAssistance/StormHelp.html.

All flood-affected individuals are still encouraged to contact the Iowa Concern Hotline for crisis counseling at 1-800-447-1985. Callers can request assistance from the program and request an individual home visit with a counselor. Hotline operators are available 24/7 and are willing to assist wherever possible.

SHELTER SUMMARY – IOWA SHELTERS

The shelter at the Iowa School for the Deaf in Council Bluffs has been reopened and will remain active for the next two weeks. Numerous shelters remain on standby and are ready to receive residents if needed.

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.
 - HSEMD staff continues to field calls and provide assistance on a 24-hour basis to local emergency management officials.
 - The State Emergency Operations Center will be staffed as warranted to respond to requests from impacted counties.

- **Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service**
 - Ongoing support of missions assigned, including access to volunteer and AmeriCorps resources.
 - AmeriCorps has sent three volunteers to Mills County to assist with disaster data collection.
 - AmeriCorps volunteers are continuing their mission patrolling the levees in Fremont County.

- **Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS)**
 - The Iowa Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team (DBHRT) has been asked to provide support during school registration in Harrison, Mills, Fremont and Pottawattamie Counties.
 - The DBHRT continues to provide assistance in declared counties as requested. For additional information on resources provided by the DBHRT, visit <http://www.iowadbhrt.org/>.

- **Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR)**
 - Continuing coordination and support with environmental concerns.
 - 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 move after 14 consecutive days. Evacuees may call the DNR at 515-281-8004 to check on availability of campsites for long-term use.
 - Weather-related park closure information is available at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/parks/construction/weather.html>

- **Iowa Department of Corrections (DOC)**
 - Ongoing support of missions assigned. Continued coordination of inmate crews to assist with sandbagging operations as requested.

- **Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT)**
 - Continual monitoring and mitigation of impacted roadways.

- The DOT has made numerous road closures. For complete information on road closures, visit www.iowadot.gov/floods/index.html or www.511ia.org, or call 5-1-1 or 1-800-288-1047.
- **Iowa Department of Public Safety (DPS)**
 - The DPS continues to provide aerial photography of impacts to affected counties.
 - Two flights are scheduled for this week in support of the DOT and the Federal Highway Administration.
 - The DPS continues to monitor roads, road closures and other public safety issues.
- **Iowa National Guard (NG)**
 - Ongoing support of missions assigned.
- **Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS)**
 - Continual monitoring of impacts to agriculture sector.
- **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 posted flood-related health information at: www.idph.state.ia.us/EmergencyResponse/Flooding.aspx.
- **Iowa Finance Authority (IFA)**
 - IFA is monitoring the rental concerns hotline and conducting follow-up on vacancies.
 - **Foreclosure prevention counseling:** Disaster-impacted homeowners that feel they may begin to struggle with their mortgage payment are encouraged to call Iowa Mortgage Help for free, confidential mortgage counseling. Iowa Mortgage Help does not offer direct financial assistance. For more information, call 877-622-4866 (if calling from Iowa) or 515-331-8081 (if calling from outside of Iowa), or visit the website at www.IowaMortgageHelp.com.
 - 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 and select “Housing Resources.”
- **Iowa State University Extension**
 - ISU Extension has compiled a list of resources on dealing with stress, flood clean up, financial concerns, tips for businesses, crops, and livestock to help Iowans prepare for and recover from floods. Access these resources at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/topic/recovering-disasters>.
 - County Extension personnel in flood-impacted counties are responding to concerns.
 - ISU Extension has the Iowa Concern Hotline, 800-447-1985, that Iowans can call for help and referrals for dealing with stress, crisis and loss in times of disaster.

COUNTY UPDATES

- **Fremont**
 - **NEW** – Due to deterioration of the plastic sheeting on Ditch 6, plans are underway to replace this plastic to provide ongoing protection of the structure.
 - Monitoring situation and responding to any identified concerns.
 - Some residents are returning to their homes to do maintenance checks and run their sump pumps and air conditioning.
 - AmeriCorps volunteers continue to provide levee monitoring in Hamburg.
 - <http://www.co.fremont.ia.us/fremontcoemergencymanagement.htm>
 - <http://www.facebook.com/pages/2011-Fremont-County-IA-Flood-Support/232438310105233>

- **Harrison**
 - **NEW** – County provided clarification regarding a July 20 levee breach that was reported to be along the Soldier River. This breach actually occurred along the Missouri River just upstream of river mile marker 664. The breach is approximately 80 feet wide and the water has stopped flowing through the breach. Water levels on the dry side of the levee have stabilized.
 - Monitoring situation and responding to any identified concerns.
 - <http://www.harrisoncountya.org/>

- **Mills**
 - New information shows there could be impact to Highway 34 based on the overtopping of an agricultural levee to the north. HSEMD will provide a 12" pump to the area of concern.
 - Monitoring situation and responding to any identified concerns.
 - AmeriCorps has volunteers who have been tasked with providing assistance to Mills County and the local Public Health Administrator for the next several weeks.
 - <http://www.millscoia.us/flood2011.htm>

- **Monona**
 - Monitoring situation and responding to any identified concerns.
 - <http://www.mononacountypublichealth.org/>

- **Pottawattamie**
 - **NEW** – Colorado Incident Management Team (IMT) will demobilize on July 30, 2011. Incident Command Post is currently working on schedule to identify additional positions that may need support from Iowa IMT in the coming weeks and has requested an Iowa IMT liaison officer.
 - Monitoring situation and responding to any identified concerns.
 - <http://www.pottcounty.com/departments-services/emergency-management/flooding.php>

- **Woodbury**
 - Monitoring situation and responding to any identified concerns.
 - <http://www.woodburyiowa.com/>

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.
- 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.

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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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