

## **State Emergency Operations Center Update**

DES MOINES – This morning, Governor Chet Culver expanded operations at the State Emergency Operations Center at Camp Dodge in Johnston to help coordinate the delivery of important resources to the most recent flood-ravaged areas.

### **Current Situation**

The State of Iowa has coordinated the delivery of resources to many areas of the state, including:

#### ***Polk County***

- Delivery of sandbags to the City of Bondurant
- Delivery of pumps to Polk City
- Delivery of portable barriers to areas in the county

#### ***Jasper County***

- Delivery of pumps for use in City of Colfax
- State Patrol flyover of South Skunk River Basin

#### ***Story County***

- Delivery of pumps to Hilton Coliseum in Ames
- Delivery of sandbags to the wastewater plant in Story City
- Red Cross shelters opened and on standby in Ames
  1. St. Cecilia Parish at 2900 Hoover is currently open
  2. First Evangelical Free Church at 2800 24th St. is on standby and expected to open later today
  3. DNR State Forest Nursery at 2404 S. Duff is on standby and expected to open later today

#### ***Van Buren County***

- Delivery of barricades to City of Farmington

#### ***Wapello County***

- Sand delivered to the City of Eldon
- Red Cross shelter opened in Ottumwa
  1. Ottumwa High School at 501 E. Second St. is open

### **Webster County**

- Delivery of pump to City of Callender wastewater treatment plant

The State of Iowa is asking travelers to stay alert to road closures and detours, especially Interstate 35 in Story County. For an updated list of road closures from the Iowa DOT, go to [www.511ia.org/](http://www.511ia.org/).

**Interstate 35 in Story County** - The southbound and northbound lanes of I-35 are flooded south of Ames between Iowa 210 and U.S. 30. The southernmost point of the closure is located at the First Street northbound entrance ramp in Ankeny. The northbound entrance ramps are also closed at the Iowa 210 and Elkhart interchanges. Due to other area highway closures, the following detour has been established:

- **Southbound** I-35 traffic must use a detour that extends east on U.S. 30 to U.S. 65, southwest on U.S. 65 to I-80 at Altoona, and then west on I-80 to the I-35/I-80/I-235 interchange.
- **Northbound** I-35 traffic will use the same route in reverse, from the I-35/I-80/I-235 interchange east to U.S. 65; U.S. 65 northeast to the U.S. 30 interchange; west on U.S. 30 to the I-35 northbound ramp.

There is a possibility that I-35 may reopen after midnight.

### **What Citizens Can, Should Do**

1. Pay attention to the weather. Know what is happening and check your local weather forecast. Heat indices are expected to reach up to 115 degrees in the next few days. For more information on how to protect yourself from becoming a casualty of heat exhaustion or heat stroke, visit [www.weather.gov/om/heat/index.shtml](http://www.weather.gov/om/heat/index.shtml).
2. If flooding is happening in your area, do not drive through standing water. Turn around, don't drown.
3. Evacuate if you are advised by local officials to do so.
4. Water can damage your propane system! If flooding is predicted for your area, turn off the gas valve at the cylinder or tank BEFORE the water rises. Do not turn the gas back on until the gas system and all appliances have been checked by a qualified service technician. AFTER A FLOOD, contact a qualified service technician to check your propane system and appliances. For more information on propane safety, visit [www.iapropane.org/template.aspx?id=9486](http://www.iapropane.org/template.aspx?id=9486).
5. For links to road and state park closures, disaster assistance information, maps, weather forecasts, public health information and more, visit [www.iowahomelandsecurity.org](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org) and click the "Current Disaster" information link.

### **Aid to Local Governments, Citizens**

**State Aid.** As of today, Governor Chet Culver has issued disaster proclamations for 50 Iowa counties due to inclement weather since June 1, 2010: Appanoose, Black Hawk, Boone, Buchanan, Buena Vista, Butler, Cherokee, Clay, Clayton, Davis, Decatur, Delaware, Dickinson, Dubuque, Emmet, Fayette, Franklin, Hamilton, Hancock, Howard, Humboldt, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Jones, Kossuth,

Lee, Lucas, Lyon, Mahaska, Marion, Monona, Monroe, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Polk, Ringgold, Shelby, Sioux, Story, Taylor, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Washington, Webster and Wright.

The proclamations allow state resources to be utilized to help local officials and residents deal with the impacts of storms which have occurred since June 1, 2010 – including the flash flooding that has plagued several counties in the past few days.

The disaster proclamations also authorize the implementation of the State Individual Assistance Grant Program to assist eligible residents in the 50 state-proclaimed counties.

The state's Individual Assistance Program provides up to \$5,000 in reimbursements for damages incurred for individuals and families whose income is less than 200 percent above the poverty level. That means individuals making \$21,660 or less may qualify, and a family of four making \$44,100 or less may qualify. Residents of counties where the State Individual Assistance Grant Program has been made available can call the Department of Human Services disaster assistance line at 1-866-434-4692. Application information is posted on the DHS Web site – visit [www.dhs.state.ia.us](http://www.dhs.state.ia.us) and click "Storm Help."

At this time, the State Individual Assistance Grant Program is the only state program available to residents with damage to their primary residences as a result of storms since June 1.

**Federal Assistance.** Because of storms in May, a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance was requested on June 22 and issued on July 27 for Des Moines and Lee Counties (Disaster 1928). Federal Public Assistance provides aid to public entities and select non-profit agencies to rebuild damaged infrastructure such as roads and bridges and other public facilities, or to cover the cost of debris removal or emergency work during storms.

Iowa also received a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance on July 29, 2010 (Disaster 1930) for storms June 1 and continuing. Thirty-two counties were included in the declaration: Adams, Appanoose, Audubon, Buena Vista, Butler, Cherokee, Clay, Davis, Decatur, Franklin, Howard, Humboldt, Iowa, Lee, Lyon, Madison, Marion, Mills, Monroe, Montgomery, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Ringgold, Shelby, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Wayne, Webster and Wright.

Since the original request was made on July 6, Iowa has continued to experience significant damage due to severe weather. On Friday, July 30, the state requested that 18 counties be added to Presidential Disaster 1930 for Public Assistance: Black Hawk, Boone, Buchanan, Clayton, Delaware, Dickinson, Dubuque, Emmet, Fayette, Guthrie, Jackson, Jasper, Jones, Lucas, Mahaska, Polk, Sioux and Story. That request is pending.

A request to add 39 counties to Disaster 1930 for Individual Assistance was made Aug. 5, 2010, and is also still pending: Black Hawk, Boone, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Cherokee, Clay, Clayton, Decatur, Delaware, Dubuque, Emmet, Fayette, Franklin, Hamilton, Howard, Humboldt, Ida, Jackson, Jasper, Jones, Kossuth, Lee, Lucas, Lyon, Mahaska, Marion, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Ringgold, Sioux, Story, Taylor, Union, Van Buren, Warren, Webster and Wright.

If a Presidential Disaster Declaration is made for Individual Assistance, federal dollars would then become available to residents and businesses in those counties. At that time, FEMA and the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division will disseminate information to citizens in declared counties about how to register for assistance. Included in the federal Individual Assistance Program are Small Business Administration loans, unemployment assistance, and rental and temporary housing assistance.

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