

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 23, 2011

Contact: State Joint Information Center
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Contact: Governor's Office
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Missouri River Flooding – State Joint Information Center Update

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

NOTE TO MEDIA: The Joint Information Center Media Briefing Conference Call Will Now Be Held on Monday-Wednesday-Friday at 3:30 p.m.

Next call is scheduled for today, June 24, at 3:30 p.m.

Conference Call Dial-In Number – 1-800-645-8878

Conference Code: 003252

Note: Same conference call information to be used on each call

NEW: Residents Impacted by Missouri River Flooding Urged to Report Damages

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division is asking residents and businesses to begin estimating the amount of flood damage to their property. Damage information may be used to assist in the preparation of a request for federal disaster aid.

Flood-impacted residents along the Missouri River in Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona, Pottawattamie, and Woodbury counties are asked to contact the Iowa Concern Hotline at 1-800-447-1985. Calls will be taken 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

See the press release at:

<http://www.governor.iowa.gov/>

http://iowahomelandsecurity.org/news_room/press_releases.html

Gavins Point to increase to 160,000 CFS Today

The Army Corps of Engineers has announced the release rate from Gavins Point Dam will increase to 160,000 cubic feet per second (CFS) by today as a result of continued wet weather throughout the Missouri River Basin. This increased flow is expected to raise the river stage at Sioux City from 0.7 to 1 foot while areas from Council Bluffs south will see an increase of 0.3 to 0.4 feet.

State and local agencies are now working with this new data provided by the Army Corps and determining any new impacts the increased river levels will have on homes and public infrastructure.

Read the Army Corps press release at:

<http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/pa/pahm/NewsReleases11/NR%20Releases%20from%20Gavins%20increase%20to%20160000.pdf>

Presidential Disaster Declaration Request

On June 18, Governor Branstad requested from President Obama a Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance for six Iowa counties. The six counties in the request are Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona, Pottawattamie, and Woodbury.

The Governor made the request in response to the ongoing flooding along the Missouri River in Iowa. Local and state agencies have been actively preparing for and responding to flooding conditions along the Missouri River since May 25, 2011.

Status: Request has been processed by the FEMA Region VII office in Kansas City and sent to FEMA Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Read the press release at:

<http://www.governor.iowa.gov/>
http://iowahomelandsecurity.org/news_room/press_releases.html

State Response Summary

- **HSEMD**
 - The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (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 provide response to declared counties.
 - HSEMD has requested technical assistance from the Army Corps of Engineers for all counties along the Missouri River from Woodbury County south.

- **DPH**
 - **NEW:** The Iowa Department of Public Health and Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship provided information to Fremont County on pet sheltering.
 - **Flood-Related Health Information**
The Iowa Department of Public Health has issued new 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.

- **Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS)**

- Working multiple issues, including flooded grain and the need for pet shelters.
- **Iowa Finance Authority (IFA)**
 - 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.”
- **DHS**
 - AmeriCorps is assisting the Disaster Behavioral Health Response Teams (DBHRT) in Council Bluffs where they are distributing evacuation plans and other information. The teams visited approximately 5,000 homes this past weekend. These teams are also active in other areas of the state.
- **Iowa National Guard**
 - The Iowa National Guard is providing levee patrol support in Fremont, Mills, Pottawattamie, and Woodbury counties. AmeriCorps will be assisting on the mission in Fremont county.
- **DOT**
 - **NEW:** The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) will be deploying flood mitigation strategies for Interstate 29 and U.S. Highway 30 near Missouri Valley. Work is expected to begin this week.
 - The Iowa Department of Transportation 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.
 - Call center established for road closures: 1-866-452-851
- **DNR**
 - DNR is providing technical assistance to waste water facilities, water supplies, industry, fuel stations, etc.
- **DOC**
 - The Iowa Department of Corrections (DOC) has crews sandbagging near Onawa. Crews are ready to assist in other communities as requested.
- **DPS**
 - Continues to monitor roads, road closures and other public safety issues.

EVACUATION SUMMARY

County	Location	Population
Woodbury		
Monona		Unknown, voluntary
Harrison	Modale	200-300 voluntary evacuation
Pottawattamie	143 homes in the county	unknown
Mills		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 Interstate 29 from the north county line to the south county line.	300+ unknown

SHELTER SUMMARY – IOWA SHELTERS

County	Location	Population
Woodbury	West Middle School, Sioux City, IA 3301 W. 19th St., Sioux City (Standby Status)	0
Monona	West Monona High School, Onawa, IA 1314 15th St., Onawa	0
Harrison	Missouri Valley, Missouri Valley High School 605 E. Lincoln Highway, Missouri Valley	3
Pottawattamie	Lakin Human Services Campus 915 North 16th St., Council Bluffs	1
Mills	No shelters at this time	
Fremont	Sidney High School, Sidney, IA 2754 Knox Rd., Sidney	3

County updates

- **Woodbury**
 - **NEW:** A severe weather event occurred June 21, leaving minimal to moderate damage in Moville, Snyders Bend and Browns Lake. Some homeowners in the Riverside area reported water in their basements. Ongoing monitoring is occurring as increased release from Gavins Point reaches Sioux City.
 - <http://www.woodburyiowa.com/>

- **Monona**
 - **NEW:** Increased release from Gavins Point has prompted the county's emergency management coordinator to request technical assistance for protection of infrastructure in Onawa. June 21 storms caused damage to trees and power lines near Mapleton and Blencoe.
 - <http://www.mononacountypublichealth.org/>

- **Harrison**
 - Sandbagging operations continue in Pisgah to protect their lift station and water treatment plant.
 - <http://www.harrisoncountya.org/>

- **Pottawattamie**
 - **NEW:** The Iowa Mutual Aid Compact was utilized to obtain additional pumps. The Johnson County emergency manager is assisting the Pottawattamie County emergency manager. Read more about the Iowa Mutual Aid Compact at http://iowahomelandsecurity.org/programs/emac_imac.html.
 - **NEW:** The City of Council Bluffs issued an Alert Level One late Wednesday afternoon, urging citizens to make preparations to leave the area should the need arise.
 - <http://www.pottcounty.com/departments-services/emergency-management/flooding.php>

- **Mills**
 - **NEW:** Thirty two-ton sandbags were filled and placed to close off drainage tiles south of Pacific Junction. The county and Army Corps of Engineers utilized local assets to perform this work.
 - <http://www.millscoia.us/flood2011.htm>

- **Fremont**
 - **NEW:** 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. Evacuation order was the result of deteriorating levees and additional expected releases from Gavins Point. The Shelter at Sidney High School remains open for those displaced.
 - <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.
- **NEW:** 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 <https://volunteer.truist.com/icovs/volunteer/register/>.

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.

Special Needs Assistance

Residents in potential flood areas who have special needs should contact local officials to request assistance and information. Residents in impacted areas are urged to look out for their neighbors with special needs and to help them get in touch with local officials.

For More Information

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

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