

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 29, 2011

Contact: State Joint Information Center
515-725-3231 or HSEMDPIO@iowa.gov
Contact: Governor's Office
515-725-3518

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.

Media Conference Calls

The next Joint Information Center Media Briefing Conference Call will be conducted today, June 29, at 3:30 p.m.

Please note the following changes due to the July 4th holiday:

Friday, July 1 call, has been moved to 11 a.m.

Next week's conference calls will be held on Tuesday (July 5) and 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

Propane and Home Heating Tank Safety

NEW - Before floodwaters hit, Iowans are urged to anchor large containers such as home heating and propane tanks. Information on propane tank safety and other topics can be found on the Iowa Department of Natural Resources website at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/disaster.html>

President Obama Authorizes Presidential Disaster for Six Iowa Counties

Governor Branstad received notification on June 27 that President Obama has authorized a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for six counties impacted by ongoing flooding conditions along the Missouri River since May 25, 2011.

The declaration by the President will provide federal funding to Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona, Pottawattamie, and Woodbury counties under the Public Assistance Program. This funding will be available to eligible public entities and select nonprofit agencies to cover costs incurred for implementing emergency protective measures and for the anticipated need for removal of debris. In addition, the declaration makes available Direct Federal Assistance, which may include sheltering supplies and swift-water rescue teams if needed.

As floodwaters recede additional assistance will be sought for the restoration of damaged public infrastructure.

Read the press release at:

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

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.

Read the press release at:

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

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 Department of Public Health (DPH)**
 - DPH is continuing to conduct vector control/mosquito tracking.
 - 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.

- **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.”

- **Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS)**
 - IDALS is working with the Office of Energy Independence to track how the flood may affect pipelines and fuel quality.

- **Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS)**
 - 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 (ING)**
 - The ING is providing levee patrol support in Fremont, Mills, Pottawattamie, and Woodbury counties. AmeriCorps is assisting on the mission in Fremont County.
 - The Iowa National Guard is assisting county emergency management coordinators with critical infrastructure and other issues, and providing expertise regarding Iowa National Guard assets and capabilities to HSEMD.

- **Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT)**
 - 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.
 - Call center established for road closures: 1-866-452-851

- **Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR)**
 - DNR is restricting boats operating on Lake Manawa to no-wake speeds. The DNR said the restriction is intended to minimize the impact of high water to public and private structures and infrastructure around the lake.
 - 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 continues to assist with sandbagging and work on the levees in Fremont County and in the city of Hamburg. Inmate assistance is also being provided for sandbagging efforts in Mills County.
 - The DOC is working with local officials in the event county jails are impacted by flooding and there is a need to relocate inmates to other facilities.

- **Iowa Department of Public Safety (DPS)**
 - The DPS continues to provide flight imagery of the affected counties.
 - The DPS continues to monitor roads, road closures and other public safety issues including assisting local law enforcement with security.

- **Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA)**
 - Working with North Dakota on potential evacuations of managed health care facilities in Minot. Facility is not directly impacted by flood but could move residents if loss of water and sewer is experienced.

EVACUATION SUMMARY

County	Location	Population
Woodbury		
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

County	Location	Population
Woodbury	West Middle School, Sioux City, IA 3301 W. 19th St., Sioux City	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 OPEN	3
Pottawattamie	Assembly Of God 3320 Harry Landgdon Blvd, Council Bluffs Lakin Human Services Campus 915 North 16th St., Council Bluffs	0 0
Mills	East Mills High School, Malvern Iowa	0
Fremont	Sidney High School, Sidney, IA 2754 Knox Rd., Sidney	0

Shelters not designated as OPEN are on standby and ready to receive residents if needed.

County updates

- **Woodbury**
 - County requested assistance from Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) regarding the ACOE road built earlier this month to access a sandbagged collector well head. A determination has been made the road does not need to be raised.
 - Inmates are providing sandbagging assistance.
 - <http://www.woodburyiowa.com/>

- **Monona**
 - No new information to report.
 - <http://www.mononacountypublichealth.org/>

- **Harrison**
 - The DOT will be working on Highway 30 beginning June 29 for flood mitigation measures. The road will be closed until this work is completed and a detour has been established.
 - <http://www.harrisoncountya.org/>

- **Pottawattamie**
 - The Army Corps of Engineers is continuing to work with the City of Council Bluffs to ensure stability of the levees.
 - 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**
 - Flood fighting continues. Inmates continue to provide assistance with sandbagging efforts.
 - 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**
 - 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.
- 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.

For More Information

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

###