

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 1, 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 Friday, **July 1 at 11 a.m.**

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

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

NEW - Heat Advisory Issued—Take Precautions to Protect Your Health

Much of Iowa is under a Heat Advisory today. All Iowans, especially those in flood-impacted counties who are performing strenuous outdoor work such as filling sandbags, are urged to take precautions.

The Iowa Department of Public Health has information and tips for protecting your health in hot weather. Learn more at <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/EmergencyResponse/Flooding.aspx>.

NEW - 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. Iowa Mortgage Help offers free, confidential mortgage counseling for Iowa homeowners.

Levee Breached in Fremont County Near Percival

A breach occurred early Thursday morning on Missouri River Federal Levee L-575 one mile north of Percival in Fremont County. Most of the area surrounding Percival, which is rural, had been evacuated. No other towns are expected to be impacted.

Due to the levee breach near Percival, the Iowa Department of Transportation is reporting that Interstate 29 from the Bartlett, Iowa, interchange (exit 24) south to the I-29/U.S. 136 interchange in Missouri is now closed due to flooding. National Guard personnel are also responding to assist Fremont County in ensuring citizens in the area impacted by the recent breach are out of harm's way.

Governor Branstad Requests Agricultural Disaster Designation for Six Iowa Counties

On June 29 Governor Terry E. Branstad sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack requesting a Secretarial Disaster Designation for six Iowa counties due to damages caused by recent flooding along the Missouri River and its tributaries.

"Iowa producers are sustaining flood damage to their crops, farm buildings and equipment," said Governor Branstad. "Given the expected duration of this event, Iowa could see significant production and agricultural losses in counties along the Missouri River."

Counties included in the disaster designation request are: Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona, Pottawattamie and Woodbury.

The Governor's request for the Secretarial Disaster Designation follows a review of agriculture damages conducted by the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

If granted, the Secretarial Designation will make disaster programs available to eligible applicants in the primary and contiguous counties. These programs include the availability of low-interest FSA emergency loans and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program, created in the 2008 Farm Bill. Iowans are encouraged to contact their local FSA office for further information.

<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 Commission on Volunteer Services**
 - Americorps workers will be beginning a levee monitoring mission in Fremont County on July 1st.

- **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)**
 - **NEW - 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. 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 and select "Housing Resources."

- **Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS)**
 - Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey visited Mills and Fremont counties June 29 to view flood damages.

- **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)**

- National Guard personnel are also responding to assist Fremont County in ensuring citizens in the area impacted by the recent breach are out of harm's way.
- The NG is providing levee patrol support in Woodbury County.
- National Guard liaisons are in place in all county EOCs.

- **Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT)**

- **NEW** - The DOT has reopened Highway 30 between Missouri Valley IA and Blair, NE. The road had been closed to allow the DOT to install flood mitigation barriers.
- The DOT has closed the Highway 137 bridge to Decatur, NE to begin mitigation measures due to scouring at the bridge embankment.
- 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)**

- **NEW** - Local officials have been hearing statements that DNR is classifying used sandbags full of sand as hazardous waste and they must be disposed of at a landfill. Neither statement is true. There are several options for using leftover sand. In general, we will discourage the disposal of used sandbags full of sand at landfills. It is acceptable to dispose the used sandbags (burlap, poly, etc.) at the landfill. There is guidance on DNR's disaster website at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/SocialMediaPressRoom/DisasterAssistance.aspx>
- **NEW** - 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.
- **NEW** - DNR is opening Lewis and Clark State Park, near Onawa, for day use only beginning at 8 a.m. on July 1. The campground will remain closed.
- **NEW** – DNR is closing state boat ramps on the Nishnabotna River due to high water levels.
- 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 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 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.

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

Presently, there are no shelters open in Iowa. 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**
 - The DNR and ACOE are working with local officials from the City of Onawa to determine possible effects of water backing up and heavy rainfall on creeks coming into the community.
 - <http://www.mononacountypublichealth.org/>

- **Harrison**
 - The DOT has reopened Highway 30 between Missouri Valley IA and Blair, NE. The road had been closed to allow the DOT to install flood mitigation barriers..
 - <http://www.harrisoncountyia.org/>

- **Pottawattamie**
 - The ACOE is continuing work on installation of filter blankets on Council Bluffs levees.
 - The ACOE 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**
 - The ACOE is working on levees L611 and L614.
 - 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**
 - AmeriCorps volunteers will be taking over the levee monitoring mission from the Iowa National Guard.
 - 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>.