

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 8, 2011

Contact: State Joint Information Center  
515-725-3231 or [HSEMDPIO@iowa.gov](mailto:HSEMDPIO@iowa.gov)  
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**

Beginning next week, the media conference call will be held once per week. The next call will be held on Wednesday, July 13 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.*

### **Gov. Branstad Signs Proclamation to Suspend the Regulatory Provisions in order to Repair Monona County Bridge**

**NEW**- Gov. Branstad yesterday signed a proclamation suspending regulatory provisions of Iowa Code section 313.10(2)(c) providing that the DOT may contract for the emergency repair, restoration or reconstruction of a highway or bridge without advertising for bids. Under this suspension, only the condition imposed by subsection 2(c) of Iowa Code section 313.10 is suspended, and the DOT may engage in such emergency letting even when the necessary work cannot be done for less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000), so long as the remaining requirements of said section 313.10 are met, and so long as the project is for emergency repair, restoration or reconstruction of the aforementioned portion of Interstate 29. This suspension only applies to emergency letting for the emergency protection, repair, restoration or reconstruction of the aforementioned portion of Interstate 29 located in Monona County, Iowa, and does not apply to any other projects.

### **Possible Heavy Rain Forecasted for Western Iowa**

**NEW** -- National Weather Service forecasts indicate there is potential for heavy rain in western Iowa this weekend. The potentially significant amount of rain could worsen existing flooding problems and lead to flooding of the tributaries to the Missouri River. Residents in this area should stay aware of weather conditions and be prepared to take precautionary measures, including evacuating, if necessary.

## **Sandbag Disposal**

**NEW** – Rumors that the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is classifying used sandbags full of sand as hazardous waste that must be disposed of at a landfill are false. There are several options, such as sanding streets, for reusing the sand and sandbags. Learn more from the DNR's website at

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/SocialMediaPressRoom/DisasterAssistance.aspx>

## **State Response Summary**

- **Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD)**
  - HSEMD, along with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Small Business Administration (SBA) and county officials conducted preliminary damage assessments on July 6 in Woodbury, Monona, Harrison, Pottawattamie, Mills and Fremont counties. Information collected during the assessments is being evaluated and will be used to determine if damages that have occurred thus far are sufficient to warrant a request for federal Individual Assistance Program funding.
  - 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 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.
- **Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service**
  - Ongoing support of missions assigned, including access to volunteer and AmeriCorps resources.
- **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](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/EmergencyResponse/Flooding.aspx).
- **Iowa Finance Authority (IFA)**
  - **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](http://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](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/disasters/disaster2011.html) and select “Housing Resources.”
- **Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS)**
  - Continual monitoring of impacts to agriculture sector.
- **Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS)**
  - The DHS Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team (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 National Guard (NG)**
  - National Guard is performing levee patrol duties in Mills and Pottawattamie counties.
  - National Guard liaisons are in place in county EOCs.
  - Providing support through Guard Emergency Situational Awareness Contacts in impacted counties.
- **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](http://www.iowadot.gov/floods/index.html) or [www.511ia.org](http://www.511ia.org), or call 5-1-1 or 1-800-288-1047.
  - Call center established for road closures: 1-866-452-8510.
- **Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR)**
  - 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. Evacuees may call the DNR at 515-281-8004 to check on availability of campsites for long-term use.
  - 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)**
  - In Mills County inmates will continue to assist with sandbagging.
  - 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 aerial photography of impacts to affected counties.
  - The DPS continues to monitor roads, road closures and other public safety issues.

#### **SHELTER SUMMARY – IOWA SHELTERS**

No shelters are open at this time. Numerous shelters remain on standby and are ready to receive residents if needed.

#### **County updates**

- **Woodbury**
  - The county has requested ACOE assistance for two areas in Port Neal.
  - <http://www.woodburyiowa.com/>
- **Monona**
  - The Iowa DNR is providing technical assistance to Blencoe for its sewage lift station.
  - <http://www.mononacountypublichealth.org/>
- **Harrison**
  - No new information to report.
  - <http://www.harrisoncountya.org/>
- **Pottawattamie**
  - The ACOE is continuing to work with the City of Council Bluffs to ensure stability of the levees.
  - <http://www.pottcounty.com/departments-services/emergency-management/flooding.php>
- **Mills**
  - The ACOE is working on identified boil areas on the county's levee structures.
  - Inmates from the Department of Corrections continue to assist with sandbagging.
  - <http://www.millscoia.us/flood2011.htm>
- **Fremont**
  - The ACOE continues work on the Hamburg levee project.

- 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>

### **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](http://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](http://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](http://www.iowaAttorneyGeneral.gov).

### **For More Information**

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