

MoDOT News Release

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MoDOT Announces Interstate 29 Closure Due to Flooding

Preparations for Summer-Long Flood Fight Continue

JEFFERSON CITY - As water released from reservoirs upstream makes its way down the Missouri River system, the Missouri Department of Transportation is making preparations to safely route travelers and freight around flood-closed roads while it works to minimize possible damage to road and bridge assets.

Interstate 29 is closed at its intersection with U.S. Route 136 at Rock Port, Mo. MoDOT encourages travelers to use Interstate 35. Water is not expected to affect this route.

Motorists can find the location of highways closed by water on MoDOT's Traveler Information Map, available at <http://www.modot.org/>. Detours for closures on interstates and U.S. routes can be found at www.modot.org/flooding, along with other flood facts.

"At this point, I-29 is the most heavily traveled highway affected by the water," said Beth Wright, MoDOT state maintenance engineer. "Other highways, especially those close to the river and its backwaters, will close for many weeks. That is because some of the water yet to come is still in the form of snow up north. Travelers should plan to encounter detours in northwest and the central portion of the state through the end of the summer."

MoDOT has moved flood-fighting assets to the Missouri River corridor to guide travelers and protect roads and bridges. Some road barriers, portable message signs and other equipment used during this spring's Mississippi River flooding are now positioned for deployment in northern and central Missouri communities.

"Road barriers and warning signs are vital to safety," Wright said. "We post them only when absolutely necessary. Those who might be tempted to drive around a barrier are warned that they are in place for a reason - the road is not passable."

Do not attempt to drive or walk through a water-covered roadway. When driving in flood-susceptible areas, keep in mind that:

- Six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet.
- Two feet of floodwater can float your car.
- Water moving at 2 mph is capable of sweeping a car off a road or bridge.

Those who encounter rapidly rising waters should turn around and find another route. If a route is blocked by barricades, find another route. Barricades are in place to protect travelers from unsafe roads. Driving around them can be a serious risk.

- The road may be washed out below the water surface.

- A vehicle may stall or get stuck in the water, and then get pushed off the road. Once off the road, vehicles often start to roll, making escape difficult or impossible.
- Many flood-related deaths in the United States are the result of an attempt to move a stalled vehicle.

For more information, visit <http://www.modot.org/>.