

MoDOT Reminds Travelers of Flooding and Detours

Most Construction Work Suspended for Labor Day Weekend

JEFFERSON CITY - On June 15, the Missouri Department of Transportation closed Interstate 29 in the northwestern corner of the state because of Missouri River flooding. Now, 11 weeks later, on the brink of Labor Day weekend, I-29 remains closed at Rock Port and the four states affected by the long-term flooding continue to work together to route travelers around the high water.

"Water continues to be over I-29 near Hamburg, Ia., just 1.4 miles north of Missouri, due to continued releases from the Gavin's Point Dam in the Dakotas," said Beth Wright, MoDOT's state maintenance engineer. "It's not likely roads will be back open any time soon, and we want travelers to be prepared for detours and higher-than-average traffic on the detour routes when they travel this weekend."

Missouri has partnered with Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska to create a regional detour that can be found on MoDOT's website at www.modot.org/flooding. It also provides information on the latest road closures with a link to the Traveler Information Map.

"Water currently covers approximately 65 miles of roadway in Missouri, primarily on lower volume roads," said Wright. "Even as high water recedes, MoDOT is actively monitoring the roads to assess damage and preparing to make repairs. Many of these roads have been under water more than two months and due to the damage we can already see, we know it will take time to get them repaired and safe for traffic."

The major detours from east to west are north on to Interstate 35 in Kansas City and then Interstate 80 west toward Council Bluffs, Iowa. From west to east, drivers can detour on to U.S. 81 north from Salina, Kan. to I-80 east toward Omaha, Neb.

MoDOT will suspend most highway construction and maintenance work throughout the state this weekend to accommodate an increase in traffic due to the holiday. Work will stop at noon on Friday and resume Tuesday morning. Still, some lane and bridge closures will remain in place.

The department urges all drivers to play it safe this holiday weekend. Drive sober, buckle up and slow down. For more information visit MoDOT's website at <http://www.modot.org/>

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