

Iowa DOT provides update on flooded road conditions

AMES, Iowa – July 15, 2011 – 11 a.m. – The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) is providing the following update on road conditions in western Iowa.

At the present time, river levels are either holding steady or slowing dropping. Therefore, the continued threat to higher-risk roadway segments is contingent on the integrity of the levee systems or heavy rainfall.

Turn Around Don't Drown®

Flooding is a dynamic situation, ever-changing throughout the day. Motorists need to take extra precautions when traveling in areas where flooding is occurring or predicted.

- Use additional caution when traveling at night when it is difficult to see a flooded road ahead or water approaching the roadway from the side.
- If you must travel on roadways where water is nearby, give your full attention to the driving task and expect vehicles ahead to slow down or make sudden stops.
- Keep your focus on the road ahead, not on the water around you and adjust your speed for conditions.

Current road closures/restrictions

- **I-29 Hamilton Boulevard interchange in Woodbury County:** The southbound I-29 interchange ramps at Hamilton Boulevard in Sioux City are closed. An alternative ramp has been constructed from southbound I-29 to Wesley Parkway/U.S. 77.
- **UPDATE: I-29 in Pottawattamie County:** The south- and northbound lanes of I-29 between milepost 55 (North 25th Street interchange in Council Bluffs) and the I-29/680 interchange at milepost 71 (near Loveland) are closed. This is expected to be a longer-term closure.
- **I-29 from exit 24 (near Bartlett, Iowa) south across the Iowa/Missouri state line to the U.S. 136 interchange in Missouri (Mo. 110 exit, near Rock Port):** The north- and southbound lanes are closed. This is expected to be a longer-term closure.
- **I-680 in Omaha area:** I-680 is closed from the I-29/680 interchange (exit 61 near Crescent) in Iowa to North 30th Street in Omaha, Neb. (exit 13). This closure includes the Mormon Bridge across the Missouri River. This is expected to be a longer-term closure.
- **Iowa 2 in Fremont County:** Iowa 2 is closed from I-29 in Iowa to Nebraska City. Both east- and westbound lanes are closed. This is expected to be a longer-term closure. High-velocity flood waters from an earlier breach near Percival are presently flowing through this area making it very dangerous.
- **UPDATE: Iowa 175 between I-29 (near Onawa) and Decatur, Neb.:** The road is closed because of serious erosion occurring near the east abutment of the Decatur toll bridge. An area 250 feet east of the present embankment has been deemed unstable and unsafe, and subject to further erosion. Flood mitigation work to protect the roadway that is currently underway is being performed beyond the limits of the unsafe zone. The bridge and road will remain closed until the flood waters recede and major reconstruction work can be performed.
- **Iowa 333 in Hamburg:** Iowa 333 is closed from I-29 into Hamburg. Access to Hamburg is currently available via U.S. 275 in Iowa. This will be a longer-term closure.

Highway segments at higher risk of being closed due to flooding

- **I-29 (north of Missouri Valley, between mileposts 77-78):** TrapBag flood barrier walls have been installed in this area.
- **I-29 (north of Modale, between mileposts 85-88):** This is a levee-protected area. However, if a breach were to occur, the roadway could be inundated with several feet of flood water.
- **UPDATE: I-29 (south of Blencoe, between mileposts 103-104):** An emergency flood mitigation project is underway to raise the highway grade approximately 1 foot over a 4,200-foot stretch of the southbound lanes of I-29.
- **I-29 (north of Blencoe, near mileposts 107 and 109):** TrapBag flood barrier walls have been installed along the north- and southbound lanes of I-29.
- **UPDATE: I-29/I-680 interchange:** This interchange near Loveland was previously closed due to flooding. Flood mitigation work, including use of sandbags, barrier wall and pumps, allowed the roadway to reopen. Additional flood mitigation work, including construction of a dike and jacking of large drainage pipes under the roadway, has been completed.
- **U.S. 30 west of Missouri Valley, including the Blair, Neb. bridge across the Missouri River:** TrapBag flood barrier walls have been installed on the north and south sides of the road. This site remains on the “high risk” list because it is still vulnerable to a levee breach that would occur north of the highway. The TrapBags are intended to help prevent inundation of the roadway from any additional breaches occurring south of the highway.
- **U.S. 34, between I-29 in Iowa and Plattsmouth, Neb.:** This roadway is protected by a levee system, but remains at risk from a levee breach or overtopping. U.S. 34 remains open to travel, but bridge construction work (started before the flooding) is underway and traffic is being detoured in a head-to-head configuration on I-29. The Iowa DOT is developing plans to construct a crossover that will shorten the construction detour. It could be constructed as early as next week.
- **UPDATE: Iowa 376 northbound (U.S. 75 Business-Lewis Boulevard):** Flood mitigation work involving drainage plugs and pumps has allowed the ramp at this location to remain open.

Being monitored

- **I-29, northbound and southbound lanes in Sioux City at the U.S. 77/Wesley Parkway underpass (between exits 148 and 149):** Flood mitigation efforts will be deployed to try to prevent this low area from being flooded.
- **I-29, northbound off-ramp to Dace Avenue in Sioux City (exit 147B or commonly known as the Downtown/Tyson Events Center):** Flood mitigation efforts will be deployed to try to keep this ramp open.
- **I-29, southbound exit ramp to Nebraska Street (exit 147B) in Sioux City:** This area is dike protected, but would be inundated if the dike is breached or overtopped.
- **UPDATE: I-29 (north of Whiting, near milepost 121):** This area is at risk due to a connection between the Missouri River and a stream that flows under Berry Avenue and through the Badger Lake State Wildlife Management Area. The roadway could be affected if the water levels would increase. The water level is currently holding stable.
- **I-29, from the Bellevue, Neb., interchange (exit 42) to the Bartlett interchange (exit 24):** This area is at a lesser risk, but would be inundated if a levee is breached or overtopped.
- **UPDATE: I-29 exit and entrance ramps at the Bartlett interchange, exit 24:** This area is at risk due to ground water near the ramps.

- **Iowa 127 near Mondamin:** The Iowa DOT is monitoring areas east and west of Mondamin, near mileposts 0.8 and 1.5, but the risk of flooding is lower because the road is protected somewhat by a high ridge.
- **Iowa 370 west of I-29, including the Bellevue, Neb. Missouri River crossing:** This area is levee protected. Levee reinforcement work was performed in an area just south of Iowa 370.

Key traveler information resources

- Road condition information 24 hours a day call 511 (in Iowa) or 800-288-1047 (anywhere in the United States) for a recorded message of road closures
- Iowa DOT on Twitter- <http://twitter.com/#!/iowadot/>
- View the flooded Iowa roads map for road closures, detours and areas at risk of flooding - <http://tinyurl.com/3o2mtlp>

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