



**09-003, Spring Flooding  
March 28, 2009  
7:20 a.m. CDT  
Incident Summary Report #23**

**Incident Overview**

***Updated information is in red.***

The following is a summary of key issues related to the 2009 spring flood for the Red River of the North, Souris, Devils Lake, James and Missouri River Basins.

State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Activation – Level I (Full Activation)

Significant Events

➤ **Deaths/Injuries**

- N.D. Department of Health reported Friday:
  - Two cardiac related deaths due to flood prevention exertion,
  - Fifty flood related injuries have been reported from hospitals and clinics statewide, ranging from wrist/ankle stress to serious motor vehicle accidents due to washed out roads – March 27
  - Eleven flood related illnesses including mental health issues, carbon monoxide poisoning, one report of gastrointestinal illness and cardiac related events – March 27

➤ **Ice Jams**

Ransom County

- The Ransom County Emergency Manager reported there is an ice jam in the center of the City of Lisbon and the water has risen one-foot within an hour. Sandbagging on N.D. Highway 27 in the city of Lisbon was in progress and the dike has been sandbagged to 24 feet – March 27

➤ **Evacuations/Sheltering**

Cass County

- **Fargo Emergency Operations Center Health And Medical Update Friday evening: Evacuations were completed at the following health care facilities – Triumph and Meritcare South Campus; the vast majority of MeritCare Hospital; Bethany, Rosewood Manor Care, Villa Maria, Good Samaritan, Wedgewood Vista, Elim, and Evergreens Waterford nursing homes. – March 28**

- Evacuation of the high rise Fargo Housing Authority units, housing 220 residents, began Friday. – March 28
- Special needs populations from Fargo were evacuated to the city of Casselton – March 28
- The American Red Cross has set up a screening area for general shelter needs at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds. – March 28
- On Friday the Cass County Board of Commissioners issued a mandatory evacuation advisory for five neighborhoods along the Red River and Wild Rice River south of Fargo. Approximately 160 households are affected by the order. The county will not force any person to evacuate but will be unable to rescue any stranded persons after dark – March 28
- Cass/Fargo officials reported Friday night that shelters are open in Casselton at Central Cass School with 55 individuals on site and 50-200 enroute. There is an active shelter at NDSU South Campus II housing 18 people. Standby shelters are at Carl Ben Eielson School and Fargo South High School. – March 28

#### Walsh County

- Evacuees from Fargo are being housed at county nursing homes and the Grafton Developmental Center – March 27

#### ➤ Flooding

- Cass County
  - Fargo levees have been sandbagged to 42 feet and attempts are underway to raise the structures to 44 feet – March 27
- Ransom County
  - On Friday, the National Weather Service in Grand Forks issued a Flash Flood Warning for flooding after an ice jam developed in the city of Lisbon on the Sheyenne River. The warning includes the townships of Springer, Island Park, Tuller and Preston – March 27

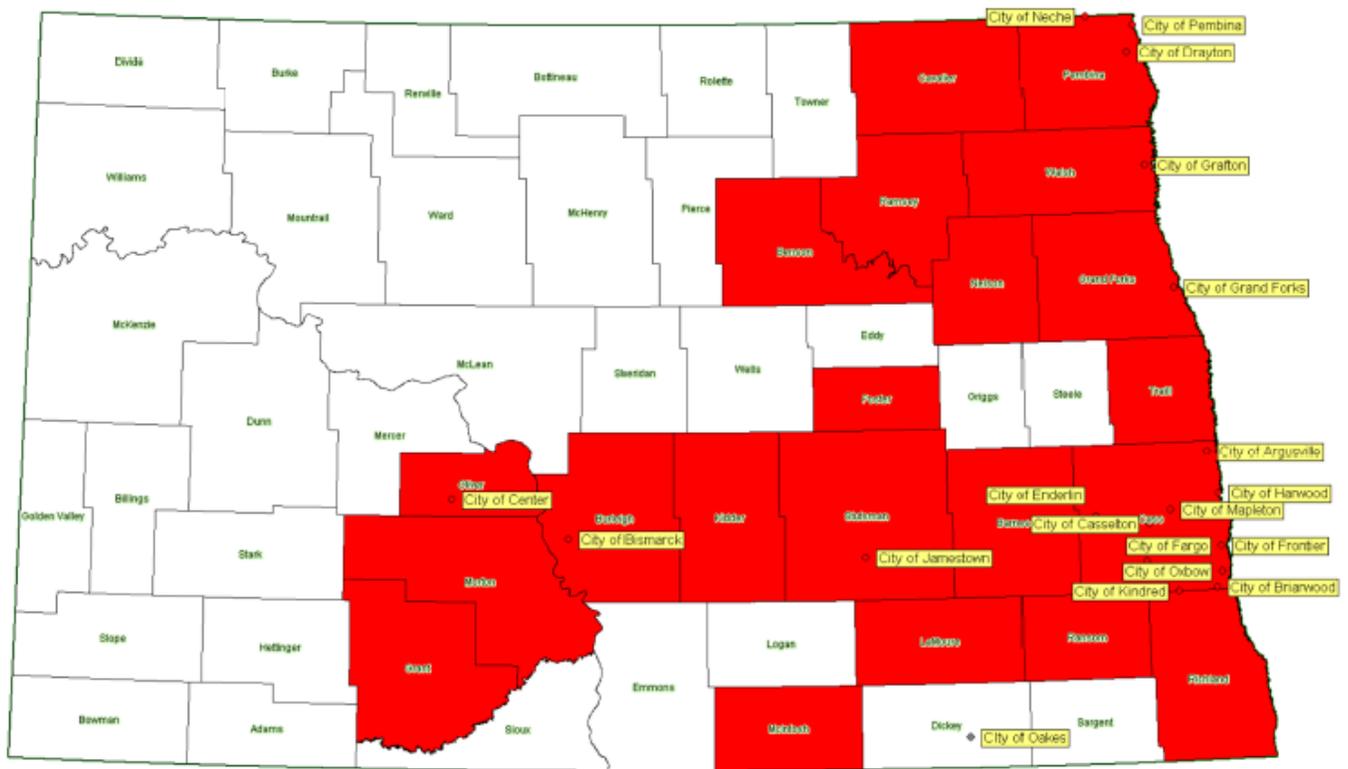
#### ➤ Electrical Outages

- Electric consumers served by Dakota Valley Electric Cooperative and Northern Plains Electric Cooperative have been experiencing extensive electric outages that began Tuesday afternoon and evening. Estimated number of customers without power is 350. – March 27
- In Dakota Valley's service area, the remaining electric outages are confined to an area west of Forbes and areas near Kulm, Ellendale, Gackle, Millarton and north of Jud.
- Northern Plains Electric's crews are targeting outages in the Medina, Woodworth, and Pettibone areas. – March 27

#### ➤ Roads

- The following locations on State Highways are closed:
  - ND Highway 27 1-mile east of junction ND 1 – March 26
  - ND Highway 1806 from ND 8 to ND 200.
  - ND Highway 200A from Washburn to ND Highway 200.
  - ND Highway 200 from the junction at ND 200A to the junction of ND 1806.
  - ND Highway 13 bridge in Wahpeton, use alternate route ND Highway 210 bypass.
  - ND Highway 13 west of Wahpeton.
  - ND Highway 24 west of Solen.
  - ND 34 from Hazelton to Napoleon.
- The following locations on US Highways are closed: - March 25
  - US Highway 83 at the south junction with ND Highway 13 at Linton,
  - US Highway 81 from I-29 to Minto

- Interstate-29 from the junction of ND Highway 13 near Wahpeton to Junction ND Highway 46 near Hickson
- Cass County
  - The North Dakota Highway Patrol reports that east/west traffic flow is slowed due to restrictions at the Red River bridge – March 27
  - The N.D. Department of Transportation and N.D. Highway Patrol detoured traffic on Interstate 29 in the Fargo area Friday – March 27
  - Southbound I-29 traffic is detoured to Highway 200A near Hillsboro at Exit ramp 100. The detour moves traffic on Hwy 200A to ND highway 18 to ND highway 46 near Leonard back to I-29 east of Kindred – March 27
- Grand Forks County
  - Thompson Bridge over the Red River on Grand Forks County Road 17 was closed Thursday night – March 27
- Walsh County
  - ND Highway 54 has water on the roadway. NDDOT is monitoring the site and will keep the highway open for local traffic commuting to and from the city of Oslo as long as safe conditions exist – March 27
- Dam Releases
- Damages to Homes/Businesses
- McLean County
  - The Boil Order is expected to continue for three to four weeks due to the quality of Missouri River water. Potable water service information has been sent to Washburn School; it addresses adequate drinking water concerns at the school. – March 25
- Declarations (See map)
  - The state was granted a Presidential Disaster Declaration for 34 counties and two Tribal Nations in North Dakota. – March 25
  - Governor John Hoeven issued a statewide emergency declaration on March 13.
  - County Declarations – Barnes, Benson, Burleigh, Cass, Cavalier, Foster, Grand Forks, Grant, Hettinger, Kidder, LaMoure, McIntosh, McLean, Morton, Nelson, Oliver, Pembina, Ramsey, Ransom, Richland, Stutsman, Traill, Walsh.
  - City Declarations – Argusville, Briarwood, Casselton, Center, Davenport, Drayton, Enderlin, Kindred, Fargo, Frontier, Grafton, Grand Forks, Harwood, Jamestown, Mapleton, Oakes, Oxbow, Neche and Pembina.



**Weather Forecast: WESTERN AND CENTRAL NORTH DAKOTA:**

Saturday is expected to be dry with slightly warmer temperatures. A storm system will move into the region late Saturday night through Monday, bringing another round of wintry weather. Although still very early, at this time it appears the most likely area to potentially receive significant snowfall will be the southwest. Current indications are that the best chances for accumulating snowfall will be located along Interstate-94 from the North Dakota and Montana border, east to Bismarck and points south. However, uncertainty remains at this time as to where the heaviest snow will fall.

**Watches, Warnings and Advisories: WESTERN and CENTRAL NORTH DAKOTA:**

**Blizzard Watch:** A blizzard watch has been issued for Sunday afternoon through Monday night for southwest and south central North Dakota. Snow is expected to develop over southwest North Dakota Sunday afternoon then spread east into south central North Dakota Sunday night. There is a chance for significant snowfall Sunday through Monday night along the I-94 corridor and points south including the cities of Dickinson and Bismarck. In addition very strong winds are forecast to develop which may cause considerable blowing and drifting snow with visibilities near zero.

**The Flood Warning for Urban Areas and Small Streams** remains in effect in Burleigh, Dickey, Emmons, Foster, Grant, Hettinger, Kidder, Lamoure, Logan, McIntosh, Mercer, Morton, Oliver and Sioux counties. Flooding continues on the Cannonball river at Brien as well as in the James River Basin at Lamoure, Ludden Dam and on Pipestem Creek near Pingree. The flood warning for Lamoure and Cannonball has been extended until Sunday.

**Flood Warning:** Continues for the Knife River near Hazen. At 6:00 am Thursday the stage was 24.2 feet. The river will continue to fall to below flood stage by

tomorrow afternoon.

Knife River at Hazen - - Stage Forecast - - Flood Stage is 21.0 feet.

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
20.3	15.7	10.1	5.3	4.3

**Flood Warning:** Continues for the James River near Ludden Dam. At 4:30 pm Friday the stage was 13.6 feet. The river will continue rising to near 17.9 feet by Wednesday morning then begin falling.

James River near Ludden- - Stage Forecast- - Flood Stage is 12.0 feet

SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
14.7	16.3	17.4	17.8	17.9

**Flood Warning:** Continues for the Pipestem Creek near Pingree. At 8:15 pm Friday the stage was 11.7 feet. The river will continue to fall to below flood stage by Sunday evening.

Pipstem Creek near Pingree- - Stage Forecast- - Flood Stage is 9.0 feet.

SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
10.8	9.1	7.8	7.2

**Flood Warning:** Continues for the cannonball river at Breien until Sunday morning. At 8:15 pm Friday the stage was 9.0 feet.

Cannonball River at Breien- - Stage Forecast- - Flood Stage is 10.0 feet

SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
10.3	8.4	7.5	6.6	4.7

[Weather Forecast: EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA:](#)

There remains the potential of a winter storm developing across the upper Midwest in the Monday afternoon through Tuesday night time frame. Potential snow amounts and timing are still uncertain until the track of this storm becomes better defined.

[National Weather Service Watches, Warnings and Advisories: EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA:](#)

The Flood Warning for Urban Areas, Rivers and Small Streams remains in effect in Barnes, Cass, Grand Forks, Pembina, Ransom, Richland, Traill and Walsh counties.

Major and record flooding is occurring and expected on the Red River. The crest will be nearing Fargo and Moorhead by Saturday and then progressing further north thereafter. The crest at some points on the Red River may linger for several days due to the large volume of water in the river system. Conditions on the Red River at Fargo and Moorhead remain dangerous. The river is currently above record levels and still rising slowly. Reports indicate that there is still significant overland flooding South of Fargo and this water is expected to still flow into the Red River between Hickson and Fargo. Due to recent cold weather overland flow into the Red River has slowed dramatically but it is expected to resume as temperatures warm back above freezing. As a result the forecasted crest has been pushed to Sunday afternoon.

**Flood Warning:** Continues for the Red River at Fargo. At 2:15 am Saturday the stage was 40.81 feet. Record flooding is occurring and record flooding is forecast. River levels are expected to crest between 41 and 42 feet Sunday afternoon and hold near that level for 3 to 7 days. There is still a possibility that the river could rise to as high as 43 feet.

Red River at Fargo - - Stage Forecast - - Flood Stage is 18.0 feet.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0	41.8	41.4

**Flood Warning:** Continues for the Sheyenne River at West Fargo diversion. At 8:15 pm Friday the stage was around 22.8 feet. Gage readings are being affected by large chunks of ice in the river. Major flooding is occurring and major flooding is forecast. The river will remain near 23 feet over the next few days.

Sheyenne River at West Fargo- - Stage Forecast- - Flood Stage is 18.0 feet.

SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
22.9	23.0	23.0	23.0	22.9	22.8	22.7

**Flood Warning:** Continues for the Red River at Wahpeton. At 9:00 pm Friday the stage was 14.9 feet. Major flooding is occurring and major flooding is forecast. The river will continue to fall to a stage of 14.5 feet by Sunday morning with a slow fall through next week.

Red River at Wahpeton- - Stage Forecast- - Flood Stage is 10.0 feet.

SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
14.5	14.4	14.3	14.2	14.2	14.2	14.2

**Flood Warning:** Continues for the Sheyenne River near Kindred. At 4:00 am Saturday the stage was 20.7 feet. Moderate flooding is occurring and major flooding is forecast. The river will continue rising to near 22.0 feet by tomorrow morning.

Sheyenne River at Kindred- - Stage Forecast- - Flood Stage is 16.0 feet

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
21.9	21.8	21.1	20.3	19.7	19.2	19.0

**Flood Warning:** Continues for the Sheyenne River at Harwood. At 8:00 pm Friday the stage was 891.6 feet. Major flooding is occurring and record flooding is forecast. The river will continue rising to near 892.3 feet by Monday evening.

Sheyenne River at Harwood- - Stage Forecast- - Flood Stage is 884.0 feet.

SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
892.0	892.2	892.3	892.3	892.2	892.2	892.0

**Flood Warning:** Continues for the Maple River near Mapleton. At 8:15 pm Friday the stage was 909.2 feet. Moderate flooding is occurring and moderate flooding is forecast. The river will continue to fall to a stage of 908.6 feet by Sunday morning.

Maple River at Mapleton- - Stage Forecast- - Flood Stage is 905.0 feet

SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
908.8	908.3	907.8	907.2	906.7	906.2	905.8.

**Flood Warning:** Continues for the Maple River near Enderlin. At 8:00 pm Friday the stage was 11.1 feet. Minor flooding is occurring and minor flooding is forecast. The river may make a minor rise Friday night but will slowly fall over the next few days.

Maple River at Enderlin - - Stage Forecast- - Flood Stage is 9.5 feet.

SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
10.4	8.7	7.6	6.6	6.0	5.5	5.6

**Flood Warning:** Continues for the Wild Rice River at Abercrombie. At 3:15 am Saturday the stage was 26.1 feet. Major flooding is occurring and major flooding is forecast. The river will continue to fall to a stage of 25.2 feet by tomorrow morning.

Wild Rice River at Abercrombie- -Stage Forecast- -Flood Stage is 10.0 feet

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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25.5 24.5 23.5 22.4 21.3 20.3 19.4

**Flood Warning:** Continues for the Red River at East Grand Forks. At 8:30 pm Friday the stage was 48.1 feet. Major flooding is occurring and major flooding is forecast. The river will continue rising to a crest between 50 and 53 feet March 30th to April 4th.

Red River at East Grand Forks- - Stage Forecast- - Flood Stage is 28.0 feet.

Sat	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
49.3	50.3	51.1	51.7	51.9	51.9	51.8

**Flood Warning:** Continues for the Red River at Oslo. At 8:15 pm Friday the stage was 37.6 feet. Major flooding is occurring and record flooding is forecast. The river will continue rising to near 39.0 feet by Wednesday afternoon. There is a large ice jam in place at the bridge in Oslo. The ice jam is reported to be four miles long.

Red River at Oslo - - Stage Forecast- - Flood Stage is 26.0 feet.

SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
38.0	38.3	38.6	38.8	39.0	39.0	38.9

**Flood Warning:** Continues for the Red River at Pembina. At 5:00 pm Friday the stage was 40.8 feet. The river will rise above flood stage by early tomorrow and continue to rise to a crest of 52 to 56 feet after April 3rd.

Red River at Pembina - - Stage Forecast- - Flood Stage is 42.0 feet.

SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
43.3	45.2	46.6	47.7	48.5	49.2	49.7

**Flood Warning:** Continues for the Red River at Drayton. At 8:00 pm Friday the stage was 36.1 feet. Minor flooding is occurring and major flooding is forecast.

The river will continue rising to a crest of 43 to 45 feet in early April

Red River at Drayton- - Stage Forecast- - Flood Stage is 32.0 feet.

SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
37.8	39.5	40.5	41.5	42.5	43.1	43.5

**Flood Warning:** Continues for the Sheyenne River at Valley City. At 9:00 am Friday the stage was 12.4 feet. The river will rise above flood stage by tomorrow late morning and continue to rise to near 15.9 feet by Sunday morning.

Sheyenne River at Valley City- - Stage Forecast- - Flood Stage is 15.0 feet.

SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
14.6	15.9	15.8	15.8	15.7	15.7	15.7

### Resource/Assistance Requests

N.D. Department of Agriculture (NDDoAg)

- 950 animal crates (#202)
  - ASSIGNED - EMAC

N.D. National Guard (NDNG)

- Refueling capability. NDNG needs to be able to refill HEMMETs for continued distribution to vehicles during Fargo evacuation. Diesel – 18,000 gallons. Gas – 8,000 gallons. (#172)
  - ACCEPTED - NDDOT

N.D. State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)

- 15 member Incident Management Team to assist flood operations in the SEOC. (#201)
  - ACCEPTED - EMAC
- Update Shelters Activated Information in WebEOC. (#200)

- ASSIGNED - NDDHS
- Transportation from Bismarck to West Fargo for 16-22 passengers and equipment to accomplish Demolition mission on the Sheyenne River. (#197)
  - ACCEPTED - NDNG
- One Joint Personnel Recovery Center Liaison Officer for SEOC helicopter operations. (#195)
  - ACCEPTED - NDNG
- 7 – 2,500 gallon diesel fuel capacity HEMMET with drivers to stage in Casselton. (#168)
  - 1 – 2,500 gallon gasoline fuel capacity HEMMET with driver to stage at Red River Valley Fair Grounds.
  - 2 – 2,500 gallon gasoline fuelers to stage at Red River Valley Fair Grounds FEMA Reception Area. Be prepared to provide diesel fuel to buses and military vehicles in support of possible Fargo evacuation. Be prepared to provide gasoline to civilian vehicles as required to ensure safe evacuation to shelters as directed by FEMA.
  - ACCEPTED - NDNG

#### N.D. Highway Patrol

- Four Guardsmen to assist with security and first aid details at the Red River Valley Fair Grounds working 12 hour shifts. (#196)
  - ASSIGNED –NDNG
- National Guard assistance to help secure the temporary shelter facilities in response to the evacuation of Fargo. Facilities include:
  - Mayville State University Auditorium- 6 guardsman for 24/hr coverage
  - Valley City State Fieldhouse(Bubble)- 5 guardsman for 24 hour coverage
  - Graichen Gym @ Valley City State-5 guardman for 24 hour coverage
  - Valley City High School Gymnasium-5 guardman for 24 hour coverage
  - Valley City Auditorium-5 guardsman for 24 hour coverage
  - Valley City Recreation Center-5 guardsman for 24 hour coverage
  - ASSIGNED – NDNG (#187)

#### N.D. Department of Transportation

- 50 Cots for the DOT section building at 15482 37th St SE Casselton, ND. The section building in Casselton is going to be used as a shelter for DOT volunteers traveling to the Fargo area to help. (#179)
  - ASSIGNED -NDDHS

#### Cass County

- Six personnel to patrol levees and 10 personnel to man pumps in Fargo. (#176)
  - ASSIGNED - NDNG

#### Traill County

- 1,900 cots and blankets to supply sheltering needs at the Hillsboro (600) and Mayville (1,300) Armories in support of potential Cass County evacuations. (#141)
  - ASSIGNED – NDDHS

**Detailed Reports**

*Refer to previous Incident Summaries, as necessary.*

#### Local

Grand Forks County

- Sandbag Central in Grand Forks will worked through the night with sandbags ready for disbursement at 7 a.m. Volunteers are needed and should call Grand Forks County Flood Hot line at 787-8052.

#### McLean County

- Due to low water intake levels from the Missouri River, residents of the city of Washburn residents have been asked to conserve water until further notice – March 27

#### State

##### N.D. Forest Service (NDFS)

- NDFS provided 20 portable radios with batteries to the Casselton, ND bus staging area. – March 27
- Providing staff to the SEOC – March 26

##### N.D. Health Department (NDDoH)

- NDDoH is coordinating sheltering at the University of Mary in Bismarck for approximately 400 skilled and assisted living residents from Fargo.– March 27

##### N.D. Highway Patrol (NDHP)

- The NDHP alerted officers, sheriff departments and city police departments along I-94 from Valley City to Dickinson to be prepared to respond to additional service calls in the event of the evacuation of the City of Fargo – March 27

##### N.D. Division of Homeland Security

- The State Emergency Operations Center is coordinating support to the state from FEMA's Region VIII (Denver) Emergency Response Team (ERT), the National Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT-West), N.D. National Guard, American Red Cross, and other federal partners including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the U.S. Small Business Administration. – March 26

##### N.D. State Electrical Board

- The Board reported Friday that inspectors evaluated 91 residences and 8 businesses in the city of Linton impacted by flood waters in Emmons County. Conditions are: 15 buildings have power restored; 38 homes had electrical service panels needing replacement – March 28

#### Federal

##### U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)

- Available USCG Assets: March 24 -- Air Boat in Fargo; 25 March -- four 30-foot trailers with 3 flood punts divided into two Disaster Area Response Teams (DART) teams; March 26 -- 3 air boats in Grand Forks; 2 helicopters are on location in Fargo. USCG will be staging resources in the city of Fargo for mission response as needed.

##### U.S. Air Force

- Two UH-1 USAF Rescue Aircraft from Grand Forks Air Force Base will be repositioned at Hillsboro Airport for continuous rescue coverage. Additional aircraft will be reposition in Hillsboro as they arrive in the state – March 26

##### Federal Emergency Management Agency

- FEMA's Incident Management Assistance Team is coordinating with the State Emergency Operations Center.

#### Voluntary Agencies

**Division of Homeland Security  
Greg M. Wilz, Director**

**Division of State Radio  
Mike Lynk, Director**