



**09-003, Spring Flooding
April 4, 2009
7:00 a.m. CDT
Incident Summary Report #36**

Incident Overview

Due to Reduced Hours in the State Emergency Operations Center, Incident Summaries will only be issued once daily until 7:00 a.m., Monday, April 6, 2009.

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

- Deaths – 2
- Injuries – 50
- Illnesses – 11

➤ Rescues

- Rescues – 135
- Animal Rescues -- 33

➤ Ice Jams

Walsh County

➤ Evacuations/Sheltering

Cass County

- One hundred twenty-two inmates evacuated from the Cass County Jail will be returned this weekend. The inmates were housed at the Grand Forks County Jail; North Central Regional Correctional and Rehabilitation Center, Rugby; Stutsman County Jail; Barnes County Jail; and the Richland County Jail – April 3

Animal Shelters

- Animal Shelters reported open:
 - Prairie Paws Animal Rescue Group, Jamestown
 - Wag N Train, Grand Forks
 - Circle of Friends Humane Society, Grand Forks
 - Luther Kennel, Casselton

- Casselton Veterinary Clinic, Casselton
- Old Cedric Theel Building, Bismarck
- Valley City Winter Show Building, Valley City
- Red River Valley Fairgrounds, West Fargo
- Total number of animals sheltered = 145

➤ **Flooding**

Projections

- The North Central River Forecast Center in Chanhassen, MN, issued a statement on April 3 that indicated the threat for additional severe flooding remains high. Conditions that led to the record flooding remain in place across much of the Red River Basin and tributaries. This is especially true in the southern part of the basin upstream from Fargo and the Sheyenne River Basin. National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service outlooks produced on April 2nd indicated the following:

Summary of conference items:

- Significant amounts of water remain in the Red River watershed. Flood plain storage, including sloughs and lakes, is at capacity, so additional precipitation will contribute to flow in the rivers.
- Wahpeton/Breckenridge: There is an 85 percent chance of exceeding the previous crest of 17.5 feet.
- Fargo/Moorhead: There is a 75 percent chance of equaling or exceeding 41 feet, which would set a new record, and a 25 percent chance of equaling or exceeding 42.8 feet.
- East Grand Forks/Grand Forks: There is a 40 percent chance of equaling or exceeding 52 feet.
- Valley City: Near certainty exists for equaling or exceeding the previous 20-foot flood of record feet set in 1882. The Baldhill reservoir on the Sheyenne River has a near certainty to produce a record inflow. The outflow from the dam and resultant peak level in Valley City is highly dependent on the rate of melt and other factors within the city such as bridge obstructions and other flow obstacles.
- The second crests along the Red River basin are expected in the latter half of April. There is uncertainty about the timing of the second crest in the Fargo/Moorhead area but should occur between April 15 and 22.

Cass County

- Cass County Cooperative reported that some flooded homes still have electricity. The North Dakota State Electrical Board is planning a meeting with Cass County Electric Cooperative and Cass County Emergency Management officials to coordinate, notify and explain to customers the process used to assure they have a safe electrical system. – April 3

➤ **Roads**

- The following highways are closed due to water over the roadway:
 - I-29 at Exit 69 (County Road 20) to Exit 100 (Jct. ND 200A-near-Hillsboro). Northbound and south bound traffic uses the same detour: I-94 to ND 18 to ND 200A
 - ND 5 from I-29 to the Red River east of Joliette.
 - ND 54 from I-29 to the Red River near Oslo, MN.
 - US Business-2, Sorlie Bridge in Grand Forks.
 - ND-17 Bridge over Red River east of Grafton at MM-138.
 - ND-200 from the junction at ND-200A to the ND-1806 junction. Use alternate route ND-1806 or US-83.

- ND-66 in Walsh County from ND 44 (near Drayton) to the Red River.

- The following highways have water on the road but remain open to traffic:
 - I-94 eastbound lane near Mapleton,
 - ND 46, 2 miles west of Kindred
 - I-29 between Manvel (Exit 152) to the Grafton interchange (Exit 176) is open to only emergency vehicles and commercial trucks with a gross weight of 26,000 lbs or more.

Barnes

- There is no travel advised on gravel roads in Barnes County. There is water over many township roads; several areas have been washed out. Extreme caution is advised when travelling in rural areas. - April 3

Grand Forks County

- Friday, the Grand Forks Emergency Manager reported city crews in Grand Forks, ND and East Grand Forks, MN began removing barricades on the Burlington Northern - Santa Fe railroad bridge; train traffic is set to resume in the evening – April 3

Grant County

- On Friday, the Grant County Board of Commissioners requested assistance in gaining access to several residents stranded by the Cedar and Cannonball Rivers – April 3

➤ Damages to Homes/Businesses

Barnes County

- Officials are monitoring a farmstead; they are concerned about Sheyenne River ice and debris, which has been building in the vicinity – April 3
- A grain elevator west of Valley City received substantial damage due to blocked culverts. Damage is estimated at approximately \$400,000. – April 3

LaMoure County

- La Moure County officials report 5 to 10 homes sustained major flooding damage and an additional 20 homes sustained minor damage – April 3

McLean County

- The boil order in Washburn will continue for an undetermined amount of time due to issues of muddy water, lack of water, and other factors. – March 31

➤ 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, Dickey, Dunn, Emmons, Foster, Grand Forks, Grant, Griggs, Hettinger, Kidder, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Nelson, Oliver, Pembina, Ramsey, Ransom, Richland, Sioux, Steele, Stutsman, Traill, Walsh and Ward.
- City Declarations – Argusville, Bismarck, Briarwood, Casselton, Center, Davenport, Drayton, Enderlin, Frontier, Fargo, Frontier, Grafton, Grand Forks, Harwood, Jamestown, Kindred, Leonard, Mapleton, Napoleon, North River, Prairie Rose, Oakes, Oxbow, Neche, Pembina and Valley City.
- Tribal Declarations - Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and Standing Rock Indian Reservation.



Weather Forecast: WESTERN AND CENTRAL NORTH DAKOTA:

Flood warnings continue for north central and eastern North Dakota. Flooding continues on the James River at LaMoure and Ludden as well as the Pipestem Creek near Pingree. The river level at Pingree on the Pipestem Creek is expected to fall below flood stage Saturday afternoon. The river level on the James River at LaMoure is expected to fall below flood stage by noon on Thursday.

Today: A 50 percent chance of snow before 1:00pm and cloudy, with a high near 36. Expect a north wind between 8 and 17 mph, with gusts as high as 26 mph. Total daytime snow accumulation of less than a half inch is possible.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 21 and a north wind between 13 and 15 mph.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 31 and a north wind between 14 and 16 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 20 and a north wind between 11 and 16 mph.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 37 and a north wind between 10 and 13 mph.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 18.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 50.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 26.

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

Flood Warning: Continues for urban areas rivers and small streams in Dickey, Emmons, Foster, LaMoure, Logan, Sioux and Stutsman Counties.

- Flood warnings are in effect for the following areas:
 - The Pipestem Creek near Pingree.
 - The James River at LaMoure.

- The James River near the Ludden Dam.
- The Sheyenne River at Valley City.
- **The Sheyenne River Lisbon**

Weather Forecast: EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA:

Today: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 35. Expect a north wind between 9 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 18 mph.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 25 and a north wind between 14 and 16 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 29. Blustery, with a north wind between 16 and 21 mph, with gusts as high as 26 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 22. Blustery, with a north northwest wind between 13 and 21 mph, with gusts as high as 26 mph.

Monday: Partly sunny, with a high near 33. Breezy, with a north northwest wind between 14 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 21.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 43.

National Weather Service Watches, Warnings and Advisories: EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA:

A flood warning remains in effect until 3 p.m. CDT Monday for urban areas and small streams in Minnesota/North Dakota border Counties of Walsh, Pembina, Cass, Barnes, Traill, Sargent, Richland, Ransom and Grand Forks. Significant overland flooding continues over much of the Red River Valley. The water may slowly recede from fields and roads over the next several days.

Major flooding continues on the Red River. The Red River continues to fall from Halstad south and gradually rise from Grand Forks north. Backwater at river locations closer to the main stem of the Red River will be an issue the next few days due to the very high levels on the Red River. Ice jams continue to be a threat.

- Flood warnings are in effect for the following areas:
 - The Red River at Fargo.
 - The Sheyenne River at the West Fargo Diversion.
 - The Sheyenne River near Kindred.
 - The Sheyenne River at Harwood.
 - The Maple River near Mapleton.
 - The Maple River near Enderlin.
 - The Red River at Drayton.
 - The Red River at Pembina.
 - The Red River at Wahpeton.
 - The Red River at Oslo.
 - The Wild Rice River at Abercrombie.
 - The Red River at East Grand Forks.

Resource/Assistance Requests

N.D. Board of Animal Health (NDBoAH)

- Requested assistance in transporting 600 large and small pet cages from Louisiana to North Dakota for 60 days. (#271)

- ASSIGNED – FEMA

N.D. Department of Health

- Requested an increase to \$1,000,000 million in operational dollars to complete the mission and conduct demobilization and staging through May 1, 2009.

- ASSIGNED – DHH/ASPR

N.D. State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)

- The Homeland Security Director requested that the North Dakota National Guard be prepared to execute evacuations of isolated farmsteads (possibly up to 10) along the Sheyenne River, downstream of Valley City. In addition, be prepared to assist with destruction and/or removal of any ice jams on the Sheyenne River. (#303)

ON STAND BY – NDNG JOC

- Request personnel and equipment to assist flood operations throughout North Dakota. (#282)

- ASSIGNED – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

N.D. National Guard (NDNG)

- Air support requests are as follows: (#224)
 - MN - Six UH60 helicopters with crew and 2 - CH47 helicopters with crew.
 - WI - Three UH60 helicopters with crew.
 - IA - Two CH 47 helicopters with crew and two UH60 helicopters with crew.
 - MO - 20 maintenance personnel - Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot (AVCRAD).
 - SD – One UH60 helicopter with crew.
 - MT - 2 CH 47 helicopters with crew.

- ACCEPTED – EMAC

Barnes County

- The Valley City Emergency Manager has requested 100 National Guard men from April 8 - 11, to help finish work on the dikes. The NDNG soldiers are to report to the Winter Show Building and no equipment is required. (#301)

Cass County

- Requests the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers assistance in the removal of the temporary levees. (#251)

- ASSIGNED - USACE - St. Paul District

Pembina County

- The city of Drayton has requested help patrolling the city's dike system. (#300)

- ASSIGNED – NDNG JOC

Ransom County

- Requested six 8HP pumps for the cities of Fort Ransom and Lisbon. The Corps pumps will be pulled out of Fort Ransom and Lisbon within a few days. Two pumps are required in Lisbon and 4 pumps in Fort Ransom. This mission is supported with six 125gpm pumps. (#292)

- ASSIGNED – NDNG-JOC

- Requested a reconnaissance flight of the Sheyenne River from Valley City through Ransom County. (#291)

- ASSIGNED - SEOC - Air Operations

Stutsman County

- United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) - Omaha District requested aerial photos of the James River from Jamestown to the South Dakota border. (#296)

- ACCEPTED/IN PROGRESS - SEOC - Air Operations

Ward County

- Requested a 2500 lb capacity bobcat with pallet forks and 2 -3 operators to operate the equipment at the State Fairgrounds Arena. This asset will be used for moving pallets of sandbags during filling operations. (#284)
 - [AWAITING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – Minot AFB](#)

Detailed Reports

[Refer to previous Incident Summaries, as necessary.](#)

LOCAL

Cass County

- One of six US Fish and Wildlife boats and crews has been demobilized in the county – April 3
- Fargo public schools will open on Monday, April 6. –

Grand Forks County

- Effective Wednesday, Grand Forks County residents were asked to call the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at 780-8213 to arrange preliminary damage assessments. Preliminary assessments will be gathered daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through April 4.
- The Grand Forks EOC will continue 24 hour operations until 5 p.m. April 5. For the week of April 6, operations will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. – April 3

McHenry County

- The city of Velva was provided 30,000 sandbags by the US Army Corps of Engineers - St. Paul from the Minot stockpile – April 3

Ransom County

- Approximately 150 county and township roads are closed. In addition to the closed roads, numerous roads have extensive damages. Also, several ranchers have reported calf and cattle losses.

Ward County

- Officials issued a news release outlining availability of pre-filled sandbags – April 3.

STATE

Civil Air Patrol

- No recent updates

N.D. Department of Transportation

- No recent updates

N.D. Department of Health (NDDoH)

- No recent updates

N.D. of Human Services (NDHS)

- No recent updates

N.D. National Guard (NDNG)

- **NDNG Task Force East is transporting 50 pallets of HESCO barrier from Fargo to the Grand Forks Armory on the morning of April 4 in an effort to re-supply Grand Forks stocks that were moved north to the Pembina Port of Entry. April 4**
- Continue to maintain liaison relationships with Richland, Ransom, Sargent, Lamoure, & Dickey Counties.
- Establish on-the-ground liaison relationships with Pembina and Walsh Counties.

- Release the 164 Engineer Battalion personnel by April 5, 2009.
- Accept command and control of flood operations in Stutsman, Barnes, Griggs, Foster, Eddy, Nelson, Ramsey, Benson, Towner and Cavalier Counties effective April 6, 2009. – April 3

FEDERAL

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- No recent updates

Transportation Safety Administration (TSA)

The TSA has been evaluating the condition of railroads in North Dakota:

- Burlington Northern Santa Fe – April 2
 - KO Subdivision (Fargo-Minot) - Remains open with some speed restrictions in certain locations. Amtrak will continue to use the BNSF KO Subdivision route (Fargo - Minot) for another couple of days.
 - Hillsboro Subdivision – It is anticipated that the Hillsboro Subdivision will re-open for train traffic as early as Thursday and normal Amtrak service will begin Thursday night over the Hillsboro Subdivision. Tonight's train - #8 (SEA-CHI) is scheduled to resume station stops at Rugby, Devil's Lake and Grand Forks.
 - Grand Forks and East Grand Forks – Portions are still out of service and will remain so until after the river crests. Flood gates, positioned over the railroad, will be re-opened and BNSF will restore service.
 - Noyes Subdivision (Noyes-Crookston) – Expected to remain out of service for a minimum of one week, possibly two.
- Northern Plains RR – Oslo, MN – April 2
 - The bridge is completely isolated. Rail personnel and sub-contractors have access to the site to break ice. At this time, the bridge shows no additional signs of damage. Water flow on both sides of the ice dam is good.
 - The NP RR has temporarily lost approximately 2-3 miles of additional track due to water over the rails.
- Amtrak – April 2
 - Amtrak #8 (SEA-CHI) is anticipated to run its normal route over the Hillsboro Subdivision and resume all service in North Dakota beginning tonight (4-2-09), unless something unforeseen should take place.

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES

- **American Red Cross**
 - Meals served to date: 57,534
- **The Salvation Army**
 - Meals served to date: 129,366

Division of Homeland Security
Greg M. Wilz, Director

Division of State Radio
Mike Lynk, Director