



**09-003, Spring Flooding
April 6, 2009
7:45 a.m. CDT
Incident Summary Report #39**

Incident Overview

Today an incident summary will be published in the early morning and at noon. Summaries from this point forward will be published once daily at noon. Continuous evaluation of operations will take place to determine required publication changes in the future.

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**
 - No recent updates
- **Evacuations/Sheltering**
 - **No open shelters exist at present; however, the Alerus Center in Grand Forks is on standby. – April 5**
 - **Animal Shelters**
 - **Seventeen animals are presently sheltered. – April 5**

➤ **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

- Due to receding water at the Burke Addition, the Cass County Emergency Management Office has determined that the National Guard will not be needed after 8:00 A.M., April 8. – April 5
- The city of Fargo is conducting a sand bag inventory and may need an additional 2 million sandbags to build the dikes to 44'. – April 5
- Cass County has requested a plan from public health for the special needs population. This vulnerable population consists of 200 who are presently evacuated and it is expected 130 individuals of the vulnerable population will remain in evacuation status. – April 5

Grand Forks County

- The Grand Forks County Sheriff's Department conducted health and safety checks on approximately 50 farmsteads. Residents and pets were evacuated from six different locations. Most residents are self sufficient and are being helped by neighbors and friends but plan to stay in their own homes until the flood waters recede. – April 5

➤ 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.

➤ [Damages to Homes/Businesses](#)

- No recent updates

➤ [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: Sunny, with a high near 38 and a northwest wind between 7 and 9 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 20 and a southwest wind around 6 mph.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 46 with a south wind 6 to 8 mph becoming west.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low near 27 and a northwest wind between 6 and 8 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 45 with a north wind around 9 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 26.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 50.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 28.

[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.

The NWS predicts there is a 90% chance the Sheyenne River will crest between 21 to 22 feet from April 22-29. There is a 10% – 50% chance the river may reach 24 feet. In preparedness the cities of Lisbon and Fort Ransom are raising all dikes to 24 feet.

The NWS predicts there is a 50% to 90% chance the Maple River will crest at 15.20 ft between the dates of April 16-23. There is a 10% – 50% chance the Maple River could reach 17 feet. In preparedness the City of Enderlin is raising the existing dikes an additional two to three feet starting the week of April 6th.

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

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 34 and a north northwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 24 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 20 and a north northwest wind between 10 and 13 mph becoming light.

Tuesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 38 and a southwest wind between 6 and 9 mph.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 25 and a west wind between 6 and 11 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 39 and a northwest wind between 9 and 13 mph.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 24.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 42.

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

[National Weather Service Watches, Warnings and Advisories: EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA:](#)
Significant river and overland flooding persists in the Red River Valley. Cold temperatures today and tonight will prevent melting with ice jams still possible on area rivers and streams. River and overland flooding will remain a significant concern for the entire Red River Valley this week. Temperatures will slowly warm up this week and the second melt should commence by the end of the week.

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

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- The United States Department of Agriculture is requesting a flight over the Linton/Beaver Creek area for a photojournalist, NDSU Extension Service Videographer, representatives from the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rural Development and Extension Service.

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)

- Requested air support to transport the Homeland Security Director, USACE, FEMA and NDNG officials to Valley City, Jamestown and Devils Lake. – (# 315)
 - ASSIGNED – SEOC / AIR OPERATIONS
- 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

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)
 - ACCEPTED/IN PROGRESS – NDNG JOC

Cass County

- Requested the North Dakota National Guard to deliver 15,000 linear feet of Hesco Bastion to the Oxbow area. The Air Guard has 9,450 ft. of Hesco Bastion on the ground. FEMA is attempting to find additional Hesco Bastion. – (#314)
 - ACCEPTED/IN PROGRESS – Cass/Fargo Emergency Manager

Grand Forks County

- Grand Forks County requested two airboats with crews, one airboat without crew and one overhead. The airboats are needed April 13, 2009 through April 20, 2009. (#311)
 - ACCEPTED/IN PROGRESS – USFWS

Pembina County

- Pembina County has requested 10 National Guard personnel to assist dike security. Soldier's assistance is needed from April 5 –15, 2009. (#307)
 - ASSIGNED – NDNG JOC
- The city of Drayton has requested help patrolling the city's dike system. (#300)
 - ASSIGNED – NDNG JOC

Ransom County

- UPDATE: The Ransom County Emergency Manager notified the SEOC that the Soldiers requested earlier will be needed for approximately 7 days, not 2 to 3 days as previously requested. – (#306)
 - ASSIGNED – NDNG JOC
- The Ransom County Emergency Manager has requested 10 road marking barricades. (#305)
 - ACCEPTED/IN PROGRESS – DOT
- The City of Enderlin has requested 20 National Guard Soldiers for Traffic Control. Soldiers are to report to the Enderlin City Auditor's office. (#306)
 - ACCEPTED/IN PROGRESS – NDNG JOC
- The City of Enderlin has requested 2,500 ft Hesco Bastion (preferably 4 ft high), 25,000 sandbags and 30 rolls of plastic. The materials are needed by the morning of April 6th. Materials should be delivered to Enderlin City Shop - 411 Railway. (#309)
 - ACCEPTED/IN PROGRESS – USACE

Stutsman County

- The City of Jamestown has requested the North Dakota National Guard, (NDNG) to load 2000 pallets at the Emergency Center in Fargo located at 2301 8th Ave North, then deliver and unload the pallets at the Stutsman County Road Department Shop located in Jamestown. The pallets are needed by 12:00 p.m. Sunday, April 5th. (#313)
 - AWAITING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - NDNG JOC

Walsh County

- The City of Grafton has requested the United States Corps of Engineers Technical assistance for dike inspection. (#308)

Detailed Reports

Refer to previous Incident Summaries, as necessary.

LOCAL

Cass County

- Fargo public schools will open on Monday, April 6. –

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)

- Continue to maintain liaison relationships with Richland, Ransom, Sargent, Lamoure, & Dickey Counties.
- Establish on-the-ground liaison relationships with Pembina and Walsh Counties.

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.

United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

- USACE-Omaha has requested a second Civil Air Patrol (CAP) imagery of the James River from Jamestown south to the state line. CAP will continue to keep this and all other target decks open for until directed otherwise. - April 5

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES

- Total of 52 Students and faculty from Dakota Adventist Academy, Bismarck, ND went to Fargo and spent 10 hours filling sandbags. - April 6
- A Distribution/Collection Center at the Adventist Church in Bismarck, ND was opened.
- 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