



**09-003, Spring Flooding
April 7, 2009
1:00 p.m. CDT
Incident Summary Report #41**

Incident Overview

Subsequent summaries 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, Sheyenne and Missouri River Basins.

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

Significant Events

- **Deaths/Injuries – as reported by the N.D. Department of Health**
 - Deaths – 2
 - Injuries – 205 (155 during the week of March 30)
 - Illnesses – 58 (47 during the week of March 30)
- **Rescues**
 - Rescues – 135
 - Animal Rescues -- 33
- **Ice Jams**
 - No recent updates
- **Evacuations/Sheltering**
 - **Casselton and Cheney shelters have closed. Vulnerable and special need repatriation is going well and 75 percent of patients are expected to be returned to care centers by April 6. Corporate jets may be donating flights to return patients sent to the western part of North Dakota. – April 6**
 - No open shelters exist at present; however, the Alerus Center in Grand Forks is on standby. – April 5
 - **Animal Shelters currently open - 11**
 - **Animals presently sheltered = 172. – April 7**
- **Flooding**
 - **Cass County**
 - **Based on the potential for ice jams, county officials monitoring the West Fargo Diversion are concerned about Sheyenne River flooding,. – April 6**
- **Dam Releases**

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) --Omaha announced an increase of the combined release from the Jamestown and Pipestem Reservoirs as follows:
 - Tuesday April 7 - 1,300 cfs
 - Wednesday April 8 - 1,500 cfs

➤ [Roads](#)

- The N.D. Department of Transportation (NDDOT) closed Highway 54 to Oslo on the North Dakota side; the road is not safe for local traffic or emergency response vehicles. NDDOT is implementing an emergency contract to get rip rap in place to save the roadway. The road is expected to be closed for days. –April 7
- 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.

Sargent County

- Sargent County Emergency Management is rescinding the request for a portable temporary bridge from the National Guard. Alternate routes will be monitored for damages due to the loss of County Road 10 south of Rutland. – April 7

➤ [Damages to Homes/Businesses](#)

No recent updates

➤ [Livestock Losses](#)

- The Board of Animal Health is collecting data from producers regarding disaster-related losses of cattle, goats, pigs and turkeys. Reports have been submitted by extension agents in Adams, Barnes, Benson, Dickey, Emmons, Logan, Mercer, McLean, Morton, McHenry, McLean, Oliver, Ransom, Richland, Sargent and Stutsman Counties and the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation. – April 7
- Some herds isolated by floodwaters have limited feed. Agriculture officials report calving losses are higher than normal and livestock feeding is more difficult than normal. – April 6.

Emmons County

- One Emmons County producer lost a large number of cattle and other producers have also sustained losses. –April 7

Ransom County

- Fifty head cattle drowned near Enderlin. –April 7

Richland County

- Several thousand turkeys died due to flooding. –April 7

➤ [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, Hope, 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:

A weak cold front will bring only a wind shift to the region. Skies will be sunny with temperatures remaining a bit below normal.

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 46 and a south wind 7 to 10 mph becoming west.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 28 and a northwest wind between 8 and 10 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 43 and a north wind between 7 and 10 mph.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 25 and a east wind between 3 and 5 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 49 and a southeast wind between 7 and 10 mph.

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

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 50.
Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 31.
Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 53.
Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 36.

Weather Forecast: EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA:

Warmer weather is expected today with highs in the upper 30s to low 40s, which is still about 5 to 10 degrees below normal. A gradual warming trend will continue into this weekend with more seasonal temperatures near the upper 40s and low 50s by Saturday. The next several days look dry with no significant storms through at least early next week.

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 39 and a southwest wind between 6 and 10 mph.
Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27 and a west northwest wind around 9 mph.
Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 39 and a north northwest wind between 10 and 14 mph.
Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 23 and a north northwest wind between 3 and 7 mph.
Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 41 and a north northeast wind between 3 and 6 mph.
Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 28.
Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 45.
Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 32.
Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 50.
Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 35.

River Forecasts

Major Flood Stage

- Major flooding will continue at the West Fargo Diversion. From Valley City to Lisbon the high water levels are the result of planned and ongoing water releases from Baldhill Dam. By this weekend the snow pack will have melted enough for significant runoff into the river systems in Southeastern North Dakota. Rivers will begin rising with major flooding expected at several places by early next week. – April 7
- The Sheyenne at the West Fargo Diversion is erratic to level at 21.1 feet and is expected to maintain 21.5 feet through the forecast period.
- The Red River in Fargo is at 32.71 feet and declining, expected until April 11, when a rise is expected to begin, possibly to 41 feet, with a 25% chance of cresting at or near 43 feet through April 15-22.
- Grand Forks continues to fall slowly at 46.63 feet and is projected to be below major flood stage April 7.
- Oslo is level to slightly decreasing at 37.8 feet and is expected to drop below major stage Friday.
- Red River at Drayton continues to rise with a current level of 43.61.

Moderate Flood Stage

- Moderate flooding will continue the next several days on the Wild Rice River at Abercrombie and the Sheyenne River at Valley City, Lisbon, Kindred and Harwood.
- The Sheyenne River at Valley City is currently 16.03 feet and expected to increase significantly late this week.
- The Sheyenne River at Lisbon is at 18.16 feet
- The Sheyenne River at Kindred is 21.42 feet.

- The Wild Rice River at Abercrombie is at 17.55 feet and is expected to decline until Friday then begin to rise back into major stage.
- The James River at Ludden has leveled out at 15.01 feet and is expected to rise to 16.4 feet in the next 48 hours.
- The Pipestem Creek at Pingree is at 10.08 feet.
- The Red River at Wahpeton is level at 12.42 feet with increases predicted on or after April 10, due to water releases scheduled at Orwell Dam and at Lake Traverse.
- The Sheyenne River at Harwood is at 890.32 feet and is expected to level out and start to begin to rise next weekend.
- The Red River at Halstad is slowly receding at 38.76 feet.
- The Red River at Pembina is currently rising at 50.56 feet with an expected crest around 53 feet on or about April 10.

Near Flood Stage

- The Willow Creek at Willow City is decreasing with a current level of 12.52 feet – no change.
- The Pipestem Creek at Pingree is decreasing slowly at 10.28 feet.
- The Apple Creek at Menoken is currently at 13.46 feet, showing slight fluctuations.
- The James River at Grace City is slowly rising at 10.39 feet.
- The James River at Lamoure is 11.88 feet.
- The Maple River at Enderlin is 8.63 feet and expected to decrease until Saturday and then begin to rise again.
- Mapleton is decreasing at 904.65 feet and is expected to fall until Thursday then begin to rise to moderate stage late in the weekend.
- The Souris River at Sherwood is level at 3.4 feet.
- The Des Lacs River at Foxholm is level at 5.51 feet.
- The Souris River at Westhope is rising and is currently at 7.75 feet.

Most Likely Effects on Flooding

- **The first crest of the Red River continues moving north and is expected to reach Pembina by this weekend. Ice remains in the river channel from Oslo north, with jams at most bridges. The river is between 7 and 12 miles wide in some stretches from near Oslo to Pembina. The river will slowly recede the next few days from Oslo to Drayton. – April 7**
- Rising temperatures in the next several days will increase the rate of thaw. This will potentially influence second crests at many locations. Projections indicate a 75 percent probability the Red River at Fargo will continue to decline until April 11-13 then rise to a peak at or near 41 feet, during April 15-22. The large snow pack in central North Dakota will influence a significant crest along the Sheyenne River including Valley City in 1-2 weeks.

Most Dangerous Effects on Flooding

- Significant rain and snow are possible with two major storms posing a threat to the Northern Plains in the next two weeks. These potential events could influence new record levels of flooding at several locations simultaneously throughout areas of North Dakota. This combination of events could push the crest of Red River at Fargo in the mid-42 foot range.

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)

- 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
- North Dakota National Guard preparations 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

Barnes County

- 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– NDNG

Cass County

- Re-mobilize US Fish & Wildlife Service assets effective 8:00 a.m. April 13, 2009. The request is for six boats with crew, plus a spare, including support staff (2 mechanics) and two supervisor to insure continuity of command. (#316)
 - ASSIGNED – USFWS
- ND National Guard Quick Response Forces (QRF) for evacuation, rescue and support. Additional resources needed include: three LCTV Troop transport vehicles (deuce and a half) and one medical vehicle HUMVEE.
 - ND National Guard assets to be assigned to the Cass County Sheriff's Office Tactical Operations Center to be used as Quick Response Forces (QRF) for evacuation, rescue and support: six additional LCTV troop transport vehicles (deuce and a half).
 - Request the following personnel be assigned to the Cass County operations: Captain Grant Larson assigned to the Sheriff's Office Tactical Operations Center; Major Greg McDonald assigned to the Cass County EOC. (#320)
- ASSIGNED – NDNG

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 – USFWS

Grant County

- Extension of assignment for the soldiers and equipment presently on site through Friday, April 10, to assist with building a road. - April 7 (#322)
 - ASSIGNED – NDNG

Pembina County

- Air reconnaissance to obtain an aerial view of water, ice jams, and dams when an aircraft is available. – (#321)
 - ASSIGNED – NDNG
- 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
- Help patrolling the city of Pembina dike system. (#300)
 - ASSIGNED – NDNG

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
- 20 National Guard Soldiers for Traffic Control in the city of Enderlin. (#306)
 - ACCEPTED – NDNG
 - 2,500 ft Hesco Bastion (preferably 4 ft high), 25,000 sandbags and 30 rolls of plastic for the city of Enderlin. (#309)
 - ACCEPTED – USACE, St Paul District

Sargent County

- The city of Milnor is requesting a visit from the Corp of Engineers to tour the situation and provide technical assistance. (#323)
 - ASSIGNED – USACE, St Paul District

Walsh County

- 2,500 filled sandbags delivered to the city of Grafton. (#318)
 - REJECTED – NDNG
- Technical assistance for dike inspection by USACE. (#308)
 - ASSIGNED – USACE, St Paul District

Detailed Reports

Refer to previous Incident Summaries, as necessary.

LOCAL

Cass County

- Temporary levees will remain in place until more data becomes available regarding a second crest at Fargo, forecasted for the April 15-22 time frame. The National Weather Service (NWS) will conduct an informational meeting on Friday, April 15. – April 6
- Officials coordinated with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Small Business Administration (SBA) regarding Greater Fargo Economic Corporation job loss meetings in Fargo on April 3. – April 6
- City and county officials started the “Spirit of Fargo” flood fund. – April 6
- Fargo Cass Public Health is offering a flood clean-up information folder as a basic guide for cleaning and restoring water damaged property. The flood information folders will be available at some local Fargo hardware and building supply stores, or by calling the Environmental Health Division at 701-476-6729. Flood information can also be found at www.cityoffargo.com/flood09 . - April 6
- The Mayor of Fargo reported decreased water levels in the Wild Rice River. The city continues to raise and reinforce dikes with the assistance of 729 Soldiers who are on duty in Cass County. The City EOC may be re-opened Monday, April 13. Fargo area schools re-opened today. – April 6

McLean County

- McLean County lifted the boil order in the city of Washburn, effective April 5th. – April 6

Pembina County

- The Cities of Drayton and Pembina continue to have National Guard personnel patrol the dikes. – April 7
- Drayton officials are presently working with the Corps concerning the city's temporary dike's ability to withhold all the water from the anticipated prolonged crest. –April 7
- The Pembina City Fire Chief has requested an airboat be staged in the area for potential emergency rescues. –April 7
- The emergency manager has received requests for an aerial view of water, ice jams, and dams within the next two days when an aircraft is available. –April 7

Sargent County

- The City of Milnor will keep the emergency dikes in place and encourage home owners to keep sandbags in place until after the next melt and runoff. The city of Milnor is requesting a site visit from the Corp of Engineers. - April 7
- Four families do not have access to their homes due to high water. Emergency Response to these locations is currently not available due to road conditions. - April 7

Stark County

- While assisting a neighbor, a producer suffered a serious head injury when a chain broke and bounced back into his tractor cab. – April 6.

STATE

Civil Air Patrol

- Eleven members of the Dickinson CAP Squadron spent the weekend in Beulah helping

flood victims and assisting the American Red Cross and The Salvation Army. The team was billeted at the Civic Center and fed by area churches. The team removed snow drifts from drives and doorways before entering basements to carry soggy belongings to the curb. – April 6

- The Minot Squadron has been helping the city of Minot wherever needed. The Bismarck and Fargo Squadrons have taken thousands of aerial images and provided them to the state EOC for viewing and posting to the website. – April 6

N.D. Department of Transportation

- Both lanes on I-29 southbound, south of Harwood are open.
- The water has receded on ND Hwy 46 near Kindred. – April 6

N.D. Department of Health (NDDoH)

- **The Department Operations Center stood down operations on April 6. Personnel can be reached at phone number 701-328-1326 during normal business hours. All emergency calls will be directed to the Department's Case Manager through State Radio. – April 6**

N.D. of Human Services (NDHS)

- No recent updates

N. D Insurance Department

- As many North Dakotans begin the process of recovery, North Dakota Insurance Commissioner Adam Hamm announced questions and answers about flood coverage and insurance can be found on the Insurance Department website by clicking on the new '09 flood button on the home page at www.nd.gov/ndins. - April 6

N.D. National Guard (NDNG)

- The NDNG provided personnel and equipment to Pembina County for the emplacement of 4,500 lineal feet of Hesco Bastion. – April 6
- One hundred soldiers have been deployed to Valley City in support of flood operations. – April 6
- Continue to maintain liaison relationships with Richland, Ransom, Sargent, Lamoure, & Dickey Counties.
- Establish on-the-ground liaison relationships with Pembina and Walsh Counties.

N.D. State Water Commission (SWC)

- **The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has requested the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to install temporary stream gages into the Sheyenne and James Rivers. The ND SWC will assist the USGS with the installation which will take place on April 8 & 9.– April 7**

FEDERAL

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- No recent updates

United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

- No recent updates

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES

AmeriCorps

- **Ten AmeriCorps personnel are assisting call centers for 3 weeks in Cass County. – April 6**

American Red Cross - ARC

- **The Red Cross call center has received calls from residents who need assistance in flood preparations around their homes. The ARC is looking for volunteer groups who can be matched with residents to assist them in their efforts.**

- Volunteer groups and individuals can call the Red Cross Call Center (701-858-9366) Monday through Friday 9am – 4pm to get on a list to assist residents who need help.
- Sand bagging operations continue at the following two locations: 1 -The State Fair Arena # 1 site, open Monday thru Friday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 2 - The Old Burlington Fire Department Building, open Monday through Friday 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Volunteers may just show up to help. – April 6
- ARC invited FEMA to participate in a Long Term Recovery Meeting held April 6. – April 6
- Shelter teams are on standby in Grand Forks, Valley City and Jamestown with sheltering trailers.
- The teams are also providing supportive feeding for sandbaggers and disaster response workers in the three cities.
- The Red Cross has outreach workers throughout the state providing assistance. Damage assessment is still ongoing – April 6.

Lutheran Disaster Relief

- The relief agency needs volunteers for clean up and mucking out. This request is being sent through 211 and First Link. Lutheran Disaster Relief has put in a request for dehumidifiers, moisture meters, etc.
- The Great Plains Food Bank is sending cleaning supplies, trash bags, soap and other items which are expected to arrive at the beginning of the week. The local volunteer number is 701-321-0180 in the Linton area. – April 6

Presbyterian Disaster Response

- Presbyterian Disaster Response is working with the Northern Plains Presbytery. The organization also has Tyvek suits, etc. if needed. They have a national call number for from volunteer groups and can help with local volunteer assistance. – April 6

Dakota Adventists

- A 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.

Division of Homeland Security
Greg M. Wilz, Director

Division of State Radio
Mike Lynk, Director