



FACT SHEET

Missoula County Floods 2018

May 13, 2018 10:00 AM

What:	Flooding
Location:	Missoula: Orchard Homes area, Tower Street, Harpers Bridge, Hamel Road in Frenchtown; Seeley Lake: Boy Scout Road, C Street, Cabin Lane, and Deer Park off Airport Road, Morrell Creek
Started:	May 2018

Key Updates: The Clark Fork River above Missoula will continue to decrease slightly within the Moderate Flood Stage until Monday.

Due to rising temperatures, water levels are expected to rise back into the Major Flood Stage and crest again sometime Friday evening or Saturday morning to at or above levels experienced last week.

On Saturday, May 13, 2018 a warning was sent out to an additional 2,205 residents that reside along the Clark Fork and Bitterroot Rivers, notifying them of potential evacuation orders. Residents are strongly encouraged to plan and prepare for evacuation orders. It is strongly recommended that all Missoula County residents sign up for the Missoula County Smart911 alerts (smart911.com), which is how emergency warning and notices are communicated to those effected.

Pubic Meeting: Monday, May 14 at 6:00 PM at Hawthorn Elementary, 2835 S 3rd St W, Missoula.

Incident Overview: The combination of a very large snowpack and recent precipitation has resulted in early season flooding. The Clark Fork River above Missoula crested at 13.82 feet (major flooding) on the evening of Friday, May 12, 2018 evening. A Type III Incident Management Team continues to manage the incident.

On Tuesday, May 8, 2018 approximately 60 homes in the Missoula Orchard Homes area were notified by the Sheriff's Office to evacuate. These structures were identified as needing immediate evacuation. The night of Thursday, May 10, 2018 on south Harpers Bridge Road three homes were issued evacuation orders and 10 additional homes put on evacuation warning, and on Hamel Road in Frenchtown two homes on were issued evacuation orders.

The Sheriff's Office has established roadblocks in the Orchard Homes area, on Harpers Bridge Road, and Hamel Road. Residents who are under an evacuation ORDER will not be allowed back in past the roadblocks. However, as conditions allow some homeowners may be allowed into isolated areas to perform additional preventive measures to protect their home. We ask the public to remember that this is a dynamic and ever-changing situation and public safety is our number one priority.

Residents around the evacuation area are strongly advised to make emergency preparations to evacuate, as flood waters are expected to continue to rise. If evacuation ORDERS are issued, time is limited to leave your residence -- make final preparations NOW. Self-evacuation is recommended.

<p>Evacuations</p>	<p>An evacuation ORDER is now in effect for the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tower Street, North of 3rd Street • Kehrwald Drive • Channel Drive • Nancy Lou Drive • Keck Street and Stone Street – North of Flamingo Drive • Schmidt Road • Off Mullan Road • South Harpers Bridge Road • Hamel Road • Under the Reserve Street Bridge <p>Due to danger from flooding conditions, residents are being ordered to evacuate immediately. Affected residents should check in at the information trailer set up in the Wheat Montana parking lot on the corner of 3rd Street and Reserve.</p>
<p>Road Closures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tower Street will be closed to all traffic • Nancy Lou Drive will be closed to all traffic • Stone Street, North of Flamingo Drive will be closed to all traffic • Schmidt Road will be closed to all traffic • Harpers Bridge Road • Hamel Road
<p>Sandbag Stations</p>	<p>Thanks to generous donations and community support, the County has set up a sandbagging station and central resources hub at the following locations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fort Missoula - Volunteers can help fill sandbags from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Saturday and Sunday, May 12 and 13. Check in with a Team Rubicon representative upon arrival. Volunteers must have current health insurance to help with sandbagging. The location is across the road from the Child Development Center located at 3335 Lt Moss Rd, Missoula, MT 59804. • Frenchtown Fire Station 1 – Self fill sandbag station, filled and unfilled sandbags and sand are available at 16875 Marion Street in Frenchtown. • East Missoula Fire Department – Self fill sandbag station, filled and unfilled sandbags and sand are available at 314 Montana Ave in Missoula. • Seeley Lake - Sandbags can be obtained at the Seeley Lake Volunteer Fire Department. Missoula County Public Works has distributed 72,500 sandbags in the County to date. <p>Resources to purchase sand are limited. Monetary donations through United Way of Missoula County go toward purchasing sand. Sandbagging operations will continue depending on availability of sand, sandbags and volunteers. The U.S. Army Corps has delivered 100,000 sandbags to Missoula County to date.</p>
<p>Shelter Information</p>	<p>American Red Cross shelters are on standby and ready to assist in Missoula and Seeley Lake. Residents seeking shelter should call 1-800-272-6668.</p>
<p>Potable Water</p>	<p>In addition to Missoula Water providing access to potable water (1345 W. Broadway, Mon-Fri from 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM), a Culligan water truck will be at Wheat Montana (2520 S. 3rd St. W.) until further notice to provide potable water to those in need. In both cases people should bring clean containers to fill with water.</p>
<p>Health Safety</p>	<p>AVOID CONTACT WITH FLOODWATER - Flood water is not the same as normal river water and contains potential contaminants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bacteria and viruses from septic systems can cause infection and illness. • Other materials like household cleaners and chemicals, lawn care products, and pesticides can cause skin irritation, rash and allergic reaction.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those who must work in flood-inundated areas should cover their skin with some type of water impermeable (rubber) boots and gloves and wash exposed areas with soap and water and rinse thoroughly immediately after exposure. • The Health Department recommends ensuring tetanus shots are up to date. The department's walk-in clinic offers vaccinations on a sliding fee scale. (406) 258-3363
Stay Alert	Sign up for Smart 911 alerts (smart911.com) to receive emergency notifications from Missoula County.
Public Safety	Public safety is the Incident Management Teams top priority. The public should not violate roadblocks or trespass on private property. Deputies are patrolling evacuated areas to protect private property. Avoid traveling in flooded areas. The public should avoid flooded areas altogether. Any increase in traffic can hinder response efforts, and create safety hazards. Residents should photograph and report hazards using the online form at bit.ly/MslaHazardReportingForm .
River Access	Do not attempt to recreate in the water. We are experiencing water levels not seen since the 1970's. River levels are high, currents are fast and debris is widespread. Emergency responders are working across the county as flooding unfolds and should not need to be pulled from that work. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks have closed the following sites on the Clark Fork: Sha-Ron, Kelly Island (all access points), Kona, Deep Creek, and Harpers Bridge Fishing Access Sites (FASs), and Council Grove State Park. FWP also closed the gates or created temporary barriers at many other FASs around the region, along the Bitterroot and Blackfoot Rivers. FASs with limited access remain open to walk-in use, but people are urged to avoid these areas and exercise extreme caution. A complete list of those sites is available at http://fwp.mt.gov/news .
Public Information	A flood information line, 258-INFO, has been established and is staffed today from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Callers will hear an updated recording afterhours. A public information trailer is set up at the Wheat Montana parking lot at 2520 S 3rd St West and is staffed from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Information is posted afterhours.
Agencies	Missoula County Sheriff's Office, Missoula Rural Fire Department, National Weather Service, Army Corps of Engineers, Missoula Fire Department, Missoula County Public Works, Seeley Lake Volunteer Fire Department, Frenchtown Rural Fire District, Missoula County Type 3 Incident Management Team, Missoula County Search and Rescue, Missoula County Office Of Emergency Management, Missoula City-County Public Health
Requesting Assistance	Residents affected by flooding can request assistance by filling out the request for disaster assistance form online at https://veoci.com/veoci/p/form/gwpd53qgx6dk#tab=entryForm .