



FACT SHEET

Missoula County Floods 2018

May 16, 2018, 10 a.m.

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: After a lull of several days, current forecasts show the Clark Fork River above Missoula will start to climb again Wednesday and Thursday (May 16-17), reaching major flood stage again on Friday, May 18. Based on current predictions and forecasts, the river is expected to crest at 13.34 feet on Saturday, May 19.

With major flood levels predicted again, residents are strongly encouraged to not become complacent and to continue planning and preparing 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 affected.

River Hazard: On Monday, May 14, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks closed the Clark Fork River from the Reserve Street Bridge in Missoula to Kona Bridge, due to dangers caused by downed power lines in the river and high water levels full of hazardous debris. Incident Command recommended the closure for public safety, after flood waters tipped power poles into the Clark Fork on Sunday, May 13. FWP says the closure will remain while power lines and other river debris continue to create unsafe conditions. The closure applies to all water-based recreation, including, but not limited to: wading, swimming, fishing, floating, boating. For more information on FWP river access site closures and restrictions visit the FWP website at fwp.mt.gov/news/restrictions/.

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 flood stage and the second-highest on record – on the evening of Friday, May 12. A Type III Incident Management Team continues to manage the incident.

On Tuesday, May 8, 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, 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 were issued evacuation orders. On Saturday, May 12, a warning was sent out to an additional 2,205 residents along the Clark Fork and Bitterroot rivers, notifying them of potential flood hazards and that evacuation may become necessary.

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 homes. We ask the public to remember that this is a dynamic and ever-changing situation and public safety is our No. 1 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.

Evacuations	An evacuation ORDER remains in effect for the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tower Street, north of 3rd Street• Kehrwald Drive
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 under evacuation order are asked to vacate their property 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 closed to all traffic, north of 3rd Street • Nancy Lou Drive closed to all traffic • Stone Street north of Flamingo Drive closed to all traffic • Schmidt Road closed to all traffic • Harpers Bridge Road closed to all traffic • Hamel Road closed to all traffic • Short Street (and connectors) open to local traffic only • Preston Street (and connectors) open to local traffic only • Hiberta Street north of 3rd open to local traffic only • Stonybrook Drive open to local traffic only
<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 a.m. to 6 p.m. 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 Road. • Missoula County Detention Center – Sandbags can be picked up in the east parking lot, 2340 Mullan Road. Limited supply of filled sandbags are currently available, and assistance loading sandbags into vehicles is available from 1 to 5 p.m. • 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. • Seeley Lake - Sandbags can be obtained at the Seeley Lake Volunteer Fire Department. <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. Missoula County Public Works has distributed 72,500 sandbags in the County to date, and the U.S. Army Corps has delivered nearly 200,000 sandbags 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, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday), a Culligan water truck will be at Wheat Montana (2520 S. 3rd St. W.) until further notice to provide potable water. In both cases people should bring clean containers to fill with water.</p>

<p>Health Safety</p>	<p>AVOID CONTACT WITH FLOODWATER. Floodwater 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. • 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
<p>Stay Alert</p>	<p>Sign up for Smart 911 alerts (smart911.com) to receive emergency notifications from Missoula County.</p>
<p>Public Safety</p>	<p>Public safety is the Incident Management Team's top priority. The public should not violate roadblocks or trespass on private property. Deputies are patrolling evacuated areas to protect private property. 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.</p>
<p>River Access</p>	<p>Do not attempt to recreate in the water. We are experiencing water levels not seen since the 1970s. 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. In addition to the Reserve Street to Kona Bridge closure on the Clark Fork, Montana FWP has closed the following sites: 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.</p>
<p>Public Information</p>	<p>A flood information line, 258-INFO, has been established and is staffed from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. until further notice. 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 a.m. to 6 p.m.. Information posted afterhours.</p>
<p>Agencies</p>	<p>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 Health Department, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks</p>
<p>Requesting Assistance</p>	<p>Residents affected by flooding can request assistance by filling out the request for disaster assistance form online at http://bit.ly/RequestForAssistance.</p>