



## Spring Flood “Frequently Asked Questions” Guide

### **What is the current flood forecast?**

The National Weather Service (NWS) probabilistic forecast can be found at: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ahps2/period.php?wfo=fgf&gage=fgon8&view=1,1,1,1,1,1&toggles=10,7,8,2,9,15,6>

Look for the black line. The exceedance probability is the chance or likelihood of the maximum river stage being exceeded. For example, if the 30% exceedance probability is 36.5 feet, then there is a 30% chance the river stage will exceed 36.5 feet and a 70% chance it will be less than 36.5 feet. This forecast considers current conditions and predicts flood stages based on the last 50 years of temperature and precipitation data.

Recent Flood Crests:

4/05/06	37.18 ft.
4/14/01	36.70 ft.
4/18/97	39.55 ft.

As the river stage begins to increase, the NWS will issue deterministic forecasts which can be found at:

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=fgf&gage=fgon8&view=1,1,1,1,1,1&toggles=10,7,8,2,9,15,6>

These forecasts are more specific as they provide predictions of river stage at specific times. These forecasts are not provided until river stages begin to increase. Until then, the best information is the probabilistic forecast described above.

### **Does the City have elevation data for my property that relates to projected flood stages?**

The City has property-specific flood survey information for some, but not all properties. If this data exists, you can access it at the following website:

<http://www.maps.co.clay.mn.us/map/moorhead/disclaimer.htm>

- click on “Go to Interactive Map,”
- click on “Search” to identify your property either by parcel number or address,
- click on “Go to Map,”
- click on “Flood Survey” and then click back on your parcel to display either the survey or see the message “Sorry no survey information found.”

You can also speak with Engineering staff to obtain property-specific flood survey information (if it exists) and for assistance with interpreting this information.

There are also two tools that property owners can use to better understand how various flood stages impact their property. The City has an interactive website tool at: <http://www.maps.co.clay.mn.us/map/moorhead/disclaimer.htm>

- click on "Go to Interactive Map,"
- click on "Search" to identify your property either by parcel number or address,
- click on "Go to Map,"
- click on "Flood Level,"
- select a flood stage to display on the map (i.e. 36.5 ft)

With this tool, the user can select various river stages and see the estimated area impacted by that river stage.

In 2006, the Red River Basin Decision Information Network flood forecast display tool was completed. It can be found at: <http://www.rrbdin.org/> When the NWS begins to issue deterministic forecasts, this tool will become active and will be updated each time the NWS deterministic forecast is updated. This tool provides an animation that depicts rising river stages and the estimated area impacted.

**I live in a new(er) subdivision and can't find flood information on the City website. To what river stage am I protected?**

Subdivisions developed after 1992 have been raised above the 100-year flood stage of about 38 feet. More stringent flood regulations in effect when these subdivisions were built accommodate more substantial flood events.

**What should I do in the event of overland flooding?**

If you observe or experience overland flooding that presents a damage risk to public or private property, you should contact the City of Moorhead at 299-5390 or 299-5386 (24 hour service).

**I live on an interior lot, away from the river. Should I be concerned about flooding?**

Interior lots in the City are not subject to flooding. The Brookdale South area is protected by the Brookdale/Horn Park dike, and the Concordia area is protected by the Woodlawn dike.

**Where should sandbags be placed and how do I build a sandbag dike?**

The City does not provide individual property owners with guidance or direction on the placement of sandbag levees on private property for logistic and legal reasons. The following website has useful information on sandbagging for flood protection: [www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/ageng/safety/ae626w.htm](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/ageng/safety/ae626w.htm).

**Will the City provide assistance with sandbags and sand?**

City policy has been that the City does not provide sandbags or sand for private property protection.

**Where can sandbags and sand be purchased?**

Residents can purchase sandbags through Mac’s Hardware in Moorhead, call 233-2600 or Sandbag Warehouse at 1418 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. N. in Fargo. Please call ahead to make arrangements with Sandbag Warehouse at 361-4815. Sandbags might also be available at other commercial outlets.

Sand may be purchased from any of the vendors listed in the Yellow Pages under “Sand and Gravel.”

**Where do I get volunteers to help or where do I go to volunteer?**

Firstlink will be coordinating all volunteer efforts. Details will be posted soon.

**What does the City do to protect against flood damage?**

The City's Flood Preparation Plan is continually updated and revised. City crews perform many functions to protect road, sewers, parks, and other infrastructure. Many of the activities are not readily visible to the general public. For example, there are many flood control gates and pumping stations that are activated to prevent river water from entering sanitary and storm sewers. Some changes you will observe include:

<i>Action:</i>	<i>Approximate Stage:</i>
Raise the bike bridges	15.0
Close Memorial Park roadway	17.0
Close the 3rd St. underpass at Main Ave.	22.0
Close Woodlawn Park	26.5
Close 3rd St. & 4th St. intersection at the Center Mall	28.0
Close the 15th Ave N. toll bridge	28.0
Close Woodlawn Drive	29.5
Close Rivershore Drive at I-94	29.5
Close 1st Ave N. underpass and bridge	31.0
Close 3rd St. and Center Mall Drive at the Center Mall	33.0
Build an alternate road to the HHIC	33.0
Close Gooseberry Park	35.0
Construct temporary levee at Rivershore Drive and Dale Ave. and extend Horn Park levee	37.0
Construct temporary levee at the east and south edge of Evergreen Cemetery	38.0
Extend Woodlawn levee west to 6 <sup>th</sup> Ave. S.	39.0

**Other Important Facts:**

- Diversion of stormwater to the sanitary sewer system is prohibited. Stormwater entering the sanitary sewer system will result in sewer backup and the potential for property damage.

- At this time of the year, all sump pumps must drain to the outside, even if you have a waiver to divert to the sanitary sewer.
- Link to FEMA Flood Preparation site:  
<http://www.fema.gov/hazard/flood>
- Key City contacts:   Engineering                           299-5390  
                                  Wastewater/Stormwater   299-5386 (24 hours)