



MARCH 14, 2019
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3:30 PM

PRESS RELEASE

Rivers to Rise/Sandbags Available

- The National Weather Service is predicting rains to continue through Thursday, March 14, 2019. A Flood Watch is in effect until Friday, March 15, 2019. Due to the snow melt, frost depths, and recent rains, the river levels in the area are forecast to rise over the next few days. The following is predicted:
 - **Wisconsin River** is expected to reach 17.6 ft. minor flood stage by Monday, March 18, 2019. (Moderate flood stage is 18.0 ft. & last year's highest crest was 18.02 ft. and the Historic Crest was 20.66 ft. in 2010)
 - **Baraboo River** is expected to reach 20.5 ft. near moderate flood stage by Monday, March 18, 2019. (Moderate flood stage is 22.0 ft. & last year's highest crest was 24.47 ft. and the Historic Crest was 27.48 ft. in 2008)
 - **Fox River & Crawfish River** levels are expected to rise and will be monitored.
 - **Spring Creek** in Lodi area is outside of its banks (severe flooding affecting the downtown area)

NOTE CITY OF LODI: POWER AND GAS IN DOWNTOWN LODI IS BEING SHUT OFF AT THIS TIME_BUISINESSES AND RESIDENTS ARE BEING ADVISED

The Red Cross has set up a reception center at the Lodi Elementary School, 101 School Street, Lodi, WI for displaced residents to go a discuss their situation.

While the Lodi City Hall is without power and phones, please call 608-573-0823 if you have something urgent in which you need to speak with someone at the city hall.

- People who live in low lying areas or along the any river are encouraged to take appropriate actions and to monitor the river levels for any changes. Monitor the river levels by clicking on the following link to the National Weather Service Website River Gauge:
http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=mkx&gage=porw3&hydro_type=0

➤ **SANDBAG LOCATIONS:**

- **COLUMBIA COUNTY** Sandbags and sand are available to the public to fill at the Columbia County Highway Shop located at 338 West Old Highway 16, Wyocena, (southeast side of highway shop building in the parking lot). You will need to bring your own shovel to fill bags and a truck or trailer to haul them.
- **CITY OF PORTAGE** Free filled (while supplies last) sandbags are available to Portage residents at the Department of Public Works facility located at 616 Washington Street, Portage. You will need to provide your own truck or trailer to haul them.
- **CITY OF COLUMBUS** Free sandbags available to fill upon request and by appointment. Contact the City of Columbus at (920) 623-5900.
- **PARDEEVILLE** Free sandbags available to fill to Pardeeville residents at the Pardeeville Public Works Garage at 307 Roosevelt St. in Pardeeville. Please bring own shovels, and truck or trailer to haul them.
- **LODI** Free sandbags available to fill at Lodi Public Works Shop at 249 Water St. in Lodi. Please bring own shovels, and truck or trailer to haul them.

➤ **ROAD CLOSURES:**

- A listing of Columbia County Road Closures is located on our website at <http://www.co.columbia.wi.us>. This will be updated as impacted roads are closed. Please do not attempt to drive through standing water in roadways. If you come across a roadway that is covered with water that has not been closed/barricaded, please contact the Columbia County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center at 608-742-4166 extension 1, to report the location so appropriate action can be taken.
- The following roads are affected/flooded:
 - Blackhawk Park area including Blackhawk Road, West Lane Road, Old River Road, and Lake Road – Caledonia Township
 - Hwy 44 north of Hwy 33 – Scott Township
 - CTH K between CTH I and WIBU Road – Arlington Township
 - Meek Road – Arlington Township
- **TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN!** Do not attempt to drive through water on a road, as little as 6 inches of moving water can sweep a car off the road.
- Local authorities will continue to monitor the situation and provide updated information as it becomes available.
- People in need of assistance are advised to contact the Columbia County Sheriff's Office dispatch at 742-4166 Extension 1 if you need immediate assistance.

Kathleen M. Johnson, Coordinator
Columbia County Emergency Management
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