



FACT SHEET

Missoula County Floods 2018

May 25, 2018 10 AM

What:	Flooding
Location:	Missoula: Orchard Homes area, Tower Street, Harpers Bridge, Hamel Road in Frenchtown; Greenough/Potomac: Elk Creek Road near Sunset Hill Road; Clinton: Cramer Creek Road

Started:	May 2018
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Key Updates:

With current forecasts predicting the Bitterroot River to reach moderate flood stage the evening of Sunday, May 27, residents in the Lolo area who live near the river are encouraged to take extra precautions through the weekend and stay alert and informed. The river is currently expected to reach levels not seen since 1997, and current forecasts predict it to crest at 13.06 feet around 6 a.m. Monday, May 28. Residents should sign up for emergency alerts from the Missoula County Office of Emergency Management at www.smart911.com, as that is the only way to receive alerts on mobile devices. Residents also should watch for groundwater infiltrating low points in their homes, including basements, crawl spaces, wells and septic systems. More resources on preparing for a flood event are available at <http://bit.ly/MslaCoFloodSafety>.

The National Weather Service is forecasting strong to severe thunderstorms with the potential for heavy rainfall, strong winds and small hail to occur around 6 p.m. on Friday, May 25. This increases the potential for flash flooding, particularly over the Lolo Peak burn scar. Potentially affected homeowners in the area have been notified, and individuals recreating in the area should stay alert to changing conditions.

The water level on the Clark Fork River above Missoula rose to 11.18 feet this morning and remains in moderate flood stage. Current forecasts predict it will continue to rise, remaining in moderate flood stage through next week. The river is expected to crest at 11.47 feet around 6 p.m. Monday, May 28. The most up-to-date river forecasts are available at <https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=mso>. Though the Clark Fork is not currently predicted to reach major flood stage, conditions can change quickly, and snowpack levels remain high. Residents in flood-prone areas should remain alert to changes in conditions.

Incident Overview: The combination of above-average 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. Approximately 65 homes in Missoula County are still under modified evacuation orders.

<p>Evacuations</p>	<p>A modified evacuation order remains 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>Affected residents can return to their homes and will not need to check in and out at road blocks, but should not re-inhabit the property or start the recovery process. Road patrols are still assigned to the affected flood area 24/7, and road blocks will be re-established as conditions warrant.</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 open to local traffic only past Harpers Bridge FAS • 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 • River Road west of Reserve 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 – As Team Rubicon has reached its goals for this operation, it is no longer managing the volunteer sandbagging efforts at Fort Missoula and does not need volunteers at this time. Residents looking for sandbags can obtain the remaining sandbags filled by volunteers at 3335 Lt. Moss Road (in the field). • 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>Shelter Information</p>	<p>American Red Cross shelters are on standby. Residents seeking shelter in Missoula or Seeley Lake should call 1-800-272-6668.</p>
<p>Potable Water</p>	<p>-Missoula Water - 1345 W. Broadway, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday), -Culligan Water Trailer - 2520 S. 3rd St. W, Wheat Montana parking lot ****Residents should bring clean containers to fill water.</p>

Health Safety	<p>Avoid contact with floodwater, including flooded lake water. Floodwater is not the same as normal river or lake 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
Stay Alert	<p>Sign up for Smart 911 alerts (smart911.com) to receive emergency notifications.</p>
Public Safety	<p>Public safety is a top priority. 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>
River Hazards and Access	<p>The Clark Fork River from the Reserve Street Bridge in Missoula to Kona Bridge remains closed until further notice, due to dangers caused by downed power lines in the river and high water levels full of hazardous debris. 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/. 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. Montana FWP also 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. A complete list of closed and limited-access sites is available at http://fwp.mt.gov/news.</p>
Public Information	<p>-A flood information line, 258-INFO, staffed from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Callers will hear an updated recording afterhours. -The public information trailer at the Wheat Montana parking lot is not currently in operation due to low traffic volume, but may be reinstated in the future if need arises.</p>
Agencies	<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, Montana DNRC, East Missoula Volunteer Fire Department, Missoula Police</p>
Requesting Assistance	<p>Residents affected by flooding can request assistance by filling out the request for disaster assistance form online at http://bit.ly/RequestForAssistance.</p>