



News Release

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New River Forecast and Flood Warning Services Coming to Iowa River in Tama County

New river forecast and flood warning services will soon allow officials and public to make more informed decisions to prepare for, respond to and recover from flooding along the Iowa River in Tama County.

The National Weather Service in Des Moines collaborated with the Tama County Emergency Management Agency to identify hydrologic service needs for people and communities along the Iowa River in Tama County. River forecast and flood warning services will be based on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) streamgauge along the Iowa River near Tama where County Hwy E49 crosses the river approximately three miles west of Tama. Forecasts and warnings for this streamgauge will be valid along the reach of the Iowa River extending from the confluence with Timber Creek near Le Grand, to the confluence with Salt Creek near Belle Plaine. This reach includes US Hwy 30, US Hwy 63, the Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa and the town of Chelsea.

These new services will begin on May 16, 2016 at 12 pm CDT.

The NWS will provide river forecasts when the observed or forecast stages go above the Action Stage. In addition, the NWS will issue river Flood Warnings and follow-up river Flood Statements when the observed or forecast stages go above the Flood Stage. Here are the stage thresholds:

- Action Stage: 11 feet.
- Flood Stage and Minor Flooding: 12.5 feet.
- Moderate Flooding: 13 feet.
- Major Flooding: 14 feet.

Forecasts and Flood Warnings for this location will be available in various sources. One source is the [NWS Des Moines Website](#). Another source is the [NWS Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service \(AHPS\) Website](#). When the services begin on May 16th, the icon for the Iowa River near Tama Hwy E49 on the AHPS Webpage will change from a diamond to a circle to indicate the availability of river forecasts.

Jeff Zogg, Senior Hydrologist for the National Weather Service in Des Moines, said the addition of river forecast and flood warning services in Tama County was a team effort which will address service gaps

in that county. “Presently river forecasts and Flood Warnings for the Iowa River are available upstream for much of Marshall County and downstream for much of Iowa County, but not for Tama County. It was rewarding to work with the Tama County Emergency Management Agency to bring these much-needed services to people in Tama County.”

Mindy Benson, Coordinator for the Tama County Emergency Management Agency and E911, said “This has been a great opportunity to work with Jeff Zogg from the National Weather Service to bring this resource and forecast stages for Iowa River flooding to Tama County and our residents. This is a feature that our residents and community leaders have needed for a few years now to help them make informed vital decisions for their safety and property protection. We hope that we won’t have to see many of these watches and warnings issued in the future but it great to know that these new changes will help our residents become better prepared.”

The National Weather Service is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warnings for the United States and its territories. The National Weather Service operates the most advanced weather and flood warning and forecast system in the world, helping to protect lives and property and to enhance the national economy. The NWS provides decision support services as well as enhanced services to local, state, and regional decision makers. For other locations where river forecasts are available see the [National Weather Service AHPS Website](#).

The Tama County Emergency Management Agency serves and assists the residents of Tama County with preparedness, training, rapid response and recovery in all emergency situations and through building public and private partnerships, fostering diversity and various viewpoints while encouraging community involvement and learning at all levels. More information about the Tama County Emergency Management Agency can be found on the [Tama County Emergency Management Agency Website](#).

River forecasts and river Flood Warnings for the Iowa River near Tama Hwy E49 are based on the real-time USGS streamgauge there. This particular USGS streamgauge provides stage and discharge data and has a period of record back to 2011. It is maintained by the USGS Iowa Water Science Center and is funded cooperatively by the Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa as well as by the USGS Water Science Center in Iowa City. More information about USGS streamgaging in Iowa is available on the [USGS Iowa Water Science Center Website](#).

The National Weather Service is working with its partners to build a [Weather-Ready Nation](#) to support community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather. Visit <http://www.weather.gov/desmoines>, and follow us on Twitter [@NWSDesMoines](#) and on [Facebook](#).

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