



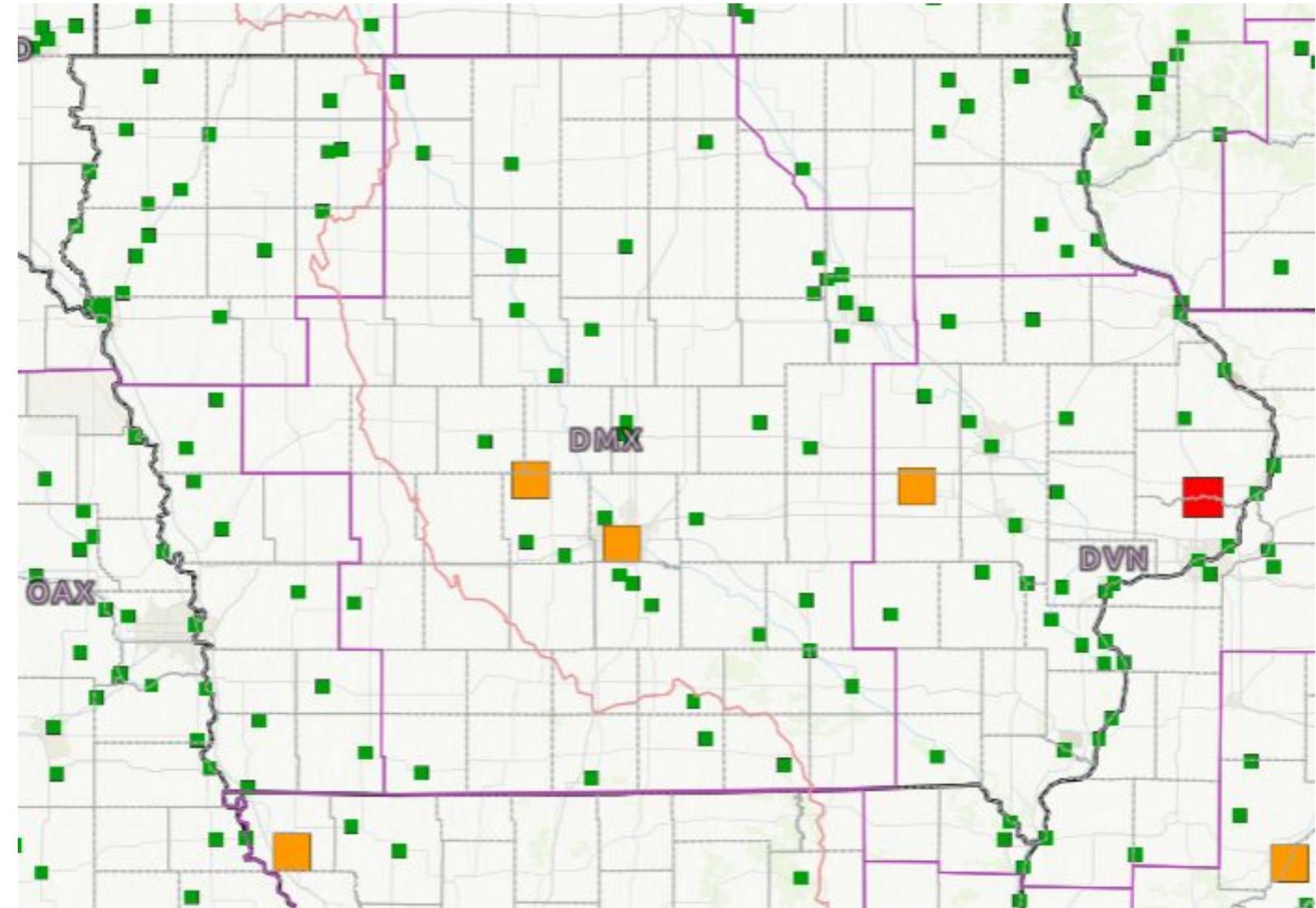
Spring Flood & Water Resources Outlook

February 26, 2026
9:00 AM CST

Outlook as of February 26, 2026

Key Messages

- Spring flood risk is currently near normal.
- A near normal risk of flooding does not necessarily mean that flooding will not occur.
- This outlook pertains mainly to river flooding, not flash flooding.
- **Any heavy or prolonged future rainfall may significantly increase the flood risk.**



Flood risk from early March through early June (50% Confidence Level)

Green=No Flooding | Orange=Minor | Red=Moderate | Purple=Major

[Click here for the latest map](#)

NEW

What Has Changed

- First outlook of the season.

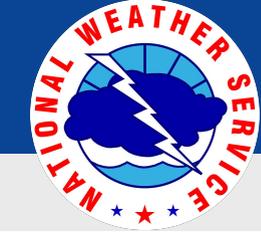
Next Scheduled Update

- March 12, 2026.



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Des Moines, Iowa



Spring Flood Outlook

February 26, 2026
9:00 AM CST

Key Ingredients	Antecedent Conditions	Impact to Spring Flooding
Winter Precipitation	Below Normal	Lesser Risk
Winter Temperatures	Above Normal	Lesser Risk
River Levels	Near Normal	Normal Risk
River Ice Conditions	Near Normal	Normal Risk
Soil Moisture	Below Normal	Lesser Risk
Frost Depth	Near Normal	Normal Risk
Snow Conditions / Water Equivalent	Above Normal in Some Areas	Greater Risk
Spring Weather Outlook	Precip Equal Chances	TBD

Overall Risk of Spring Flooding:

Normal Risk*

- Competing factors increasing and lowering the risk
- * - Future rainfall will likely be a significant factor in any spring flood risk

Risk Potential:

Lesser Risk	Normal Risk	Greater Risk	To Be Determined
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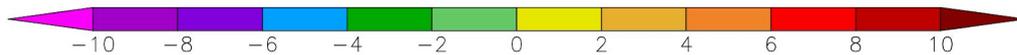
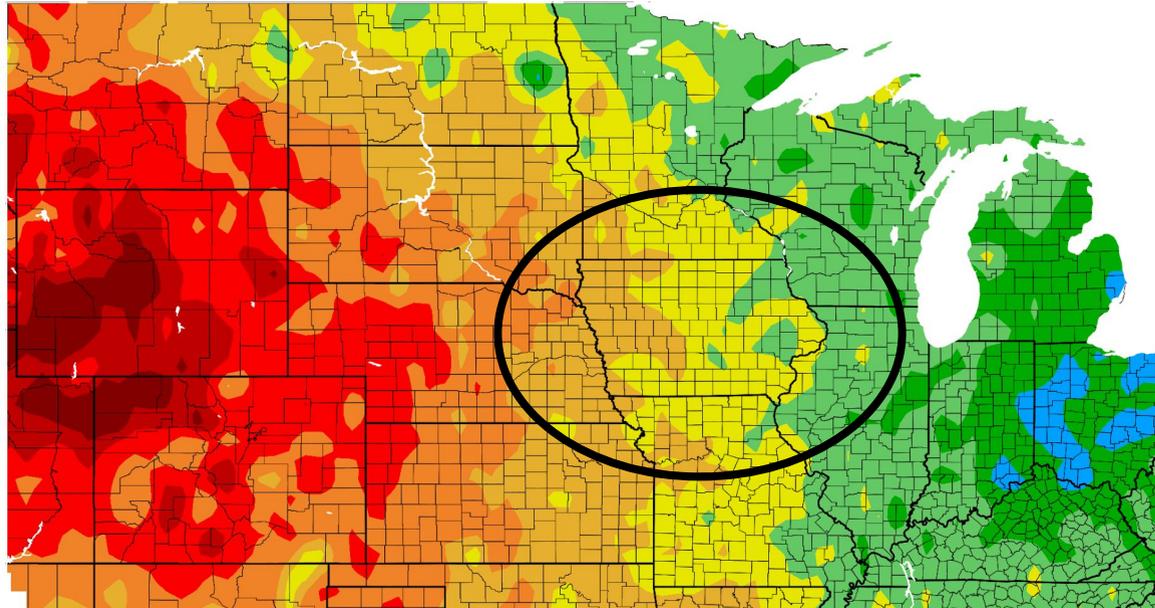
Winter Precipitation and Temperature

February 26, 2026
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Maps show temperature departure from normal and precipitation percent of normal

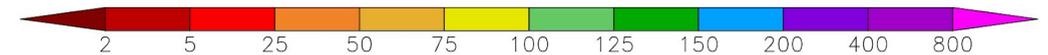
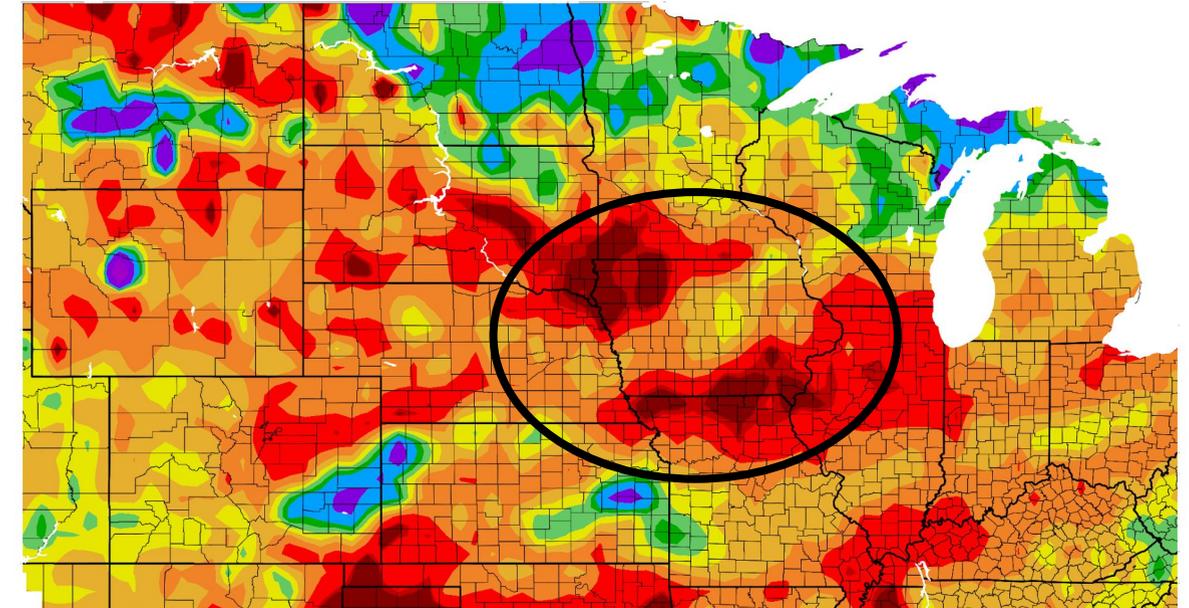
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
11/27/2025 – 2/24/2026

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
1/26/2026 – 2/24/2026



Generated 2/25/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services



Generated 2/25/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Maps from [High Plains Regional Climate Center](#)

- Above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation
- Impact to spring flooding risk: decrease



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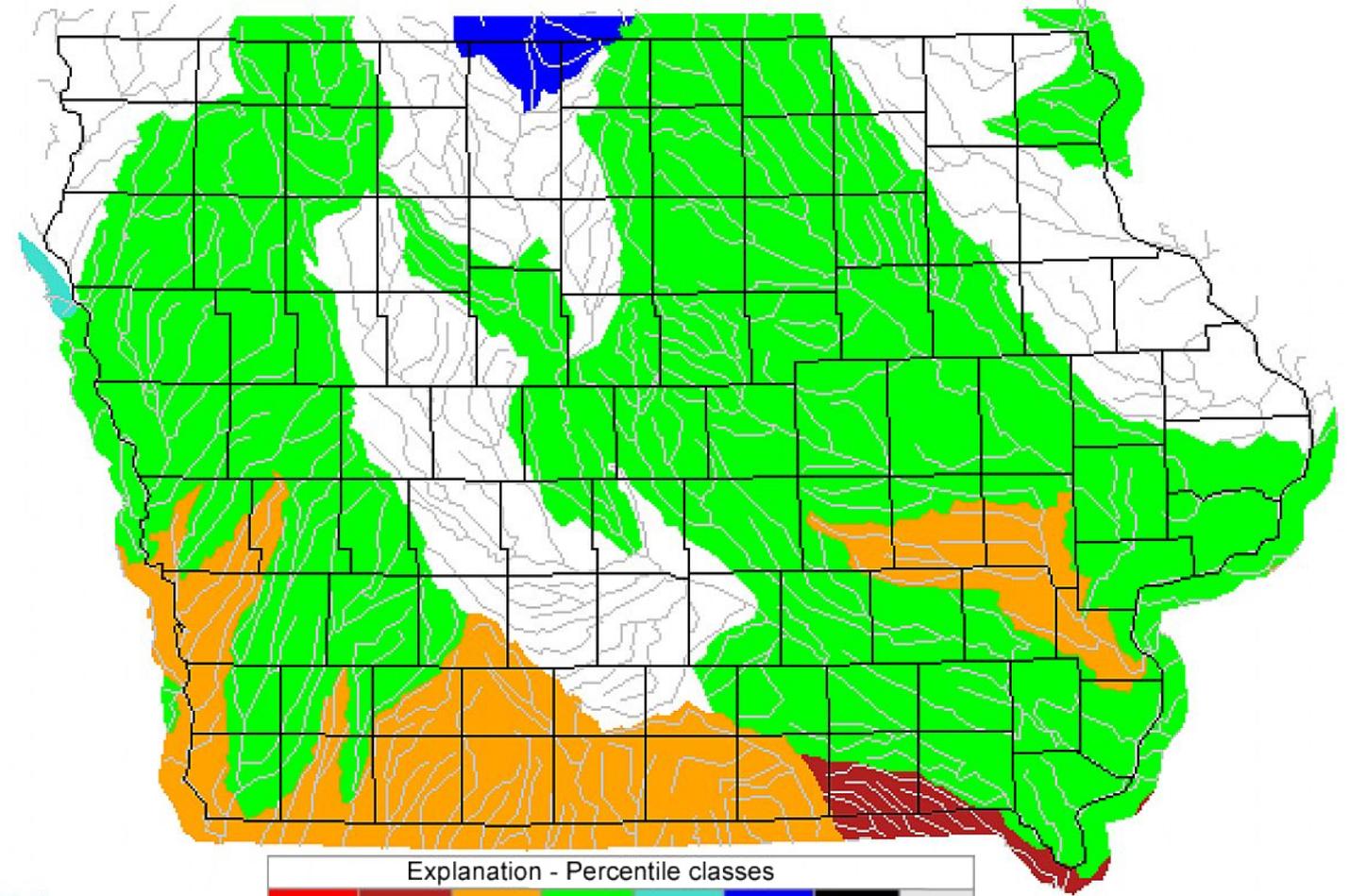
River Levels

February 26, 2026
9:00 AM CST

Map shows streamflow percentiles

- Streamflows mostly near normal with some below normal
- Ice jam potential highest north of U.S. Highway 30
- Impact to spring flooding risk: no significant change

Tuesday, February 24, 2026



Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Map from [U.S. Geological Survey](#)





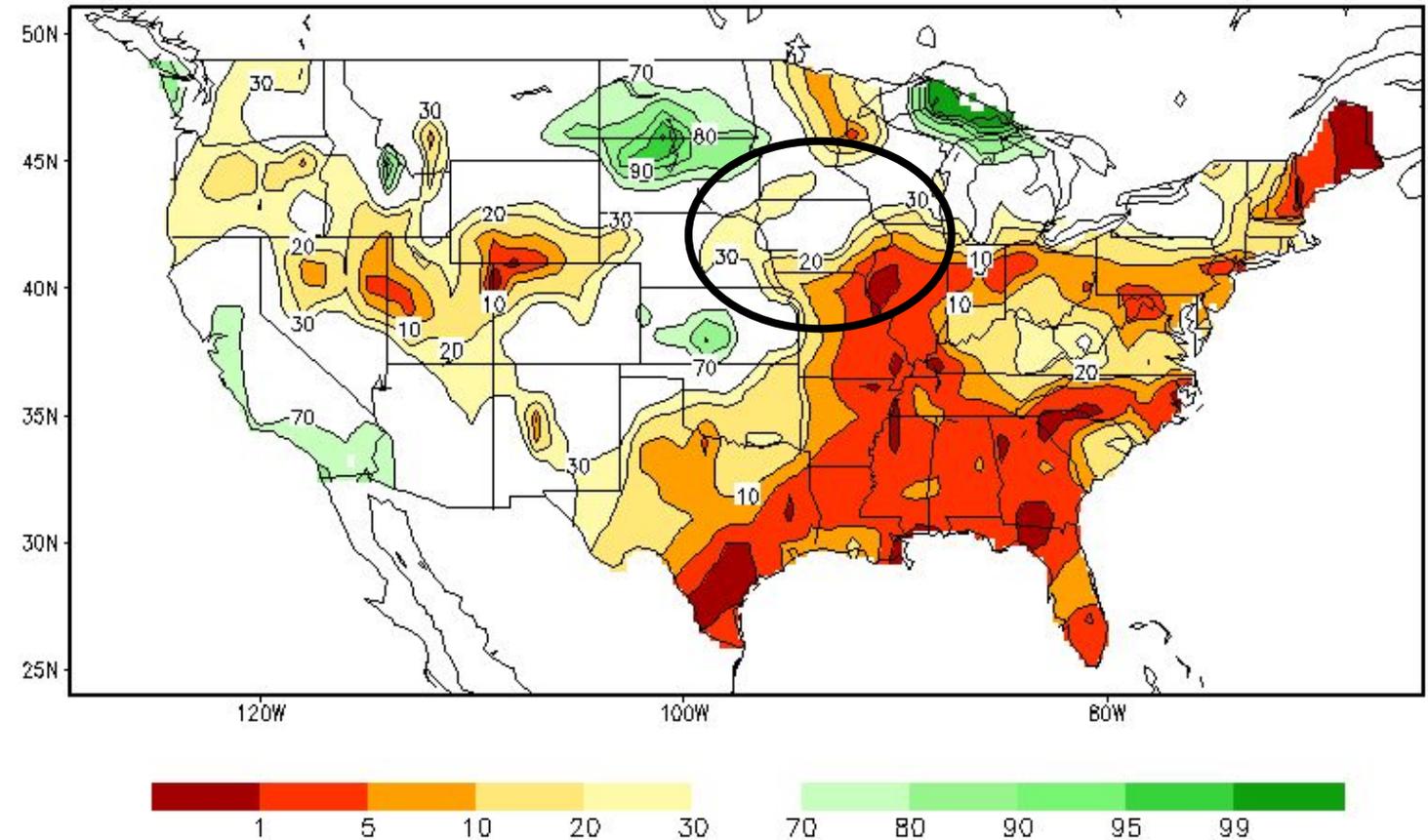
Soil Moisture and Frost Depth

February 26, 2026
9:00 AM CST

Map shows soil moisture percentiles

- Soil moisture near to below normal
- Frost depth near normal
- Impact to spring flooding risk: no significant change

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
FEB 24, 2026



Map from [NOAA Climate Prediction Center](#)



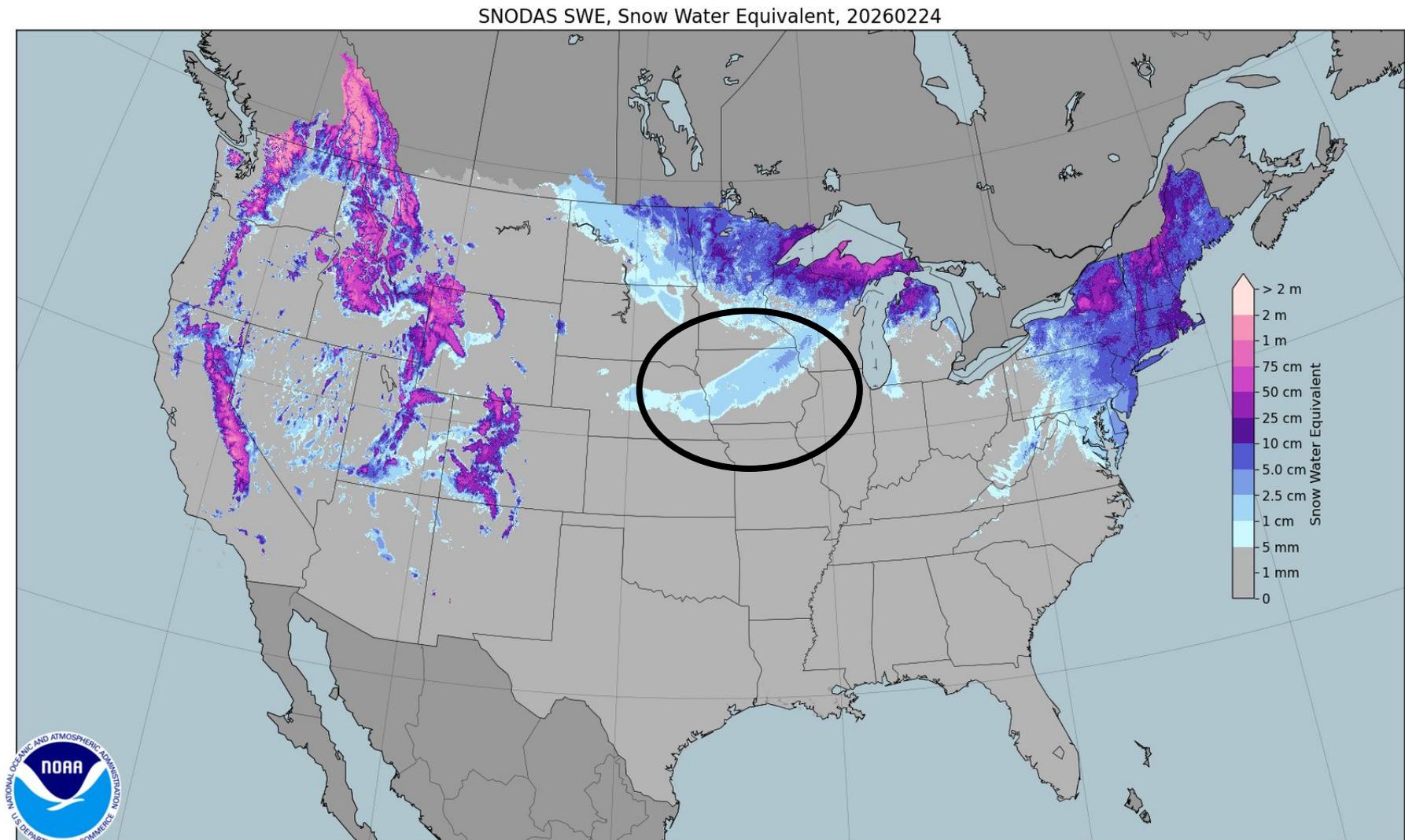


Snow Water Equivalent

February 26, 2026
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Map shows snow water equivalent

- Where snow exists, it is generally less than 1 inch of snow water equivalent



Map from [National Hydrologic Operational Remote Sensing Center](#)
To convert centimeters (cm) to inches: approximately 2.5 cm equals one inch



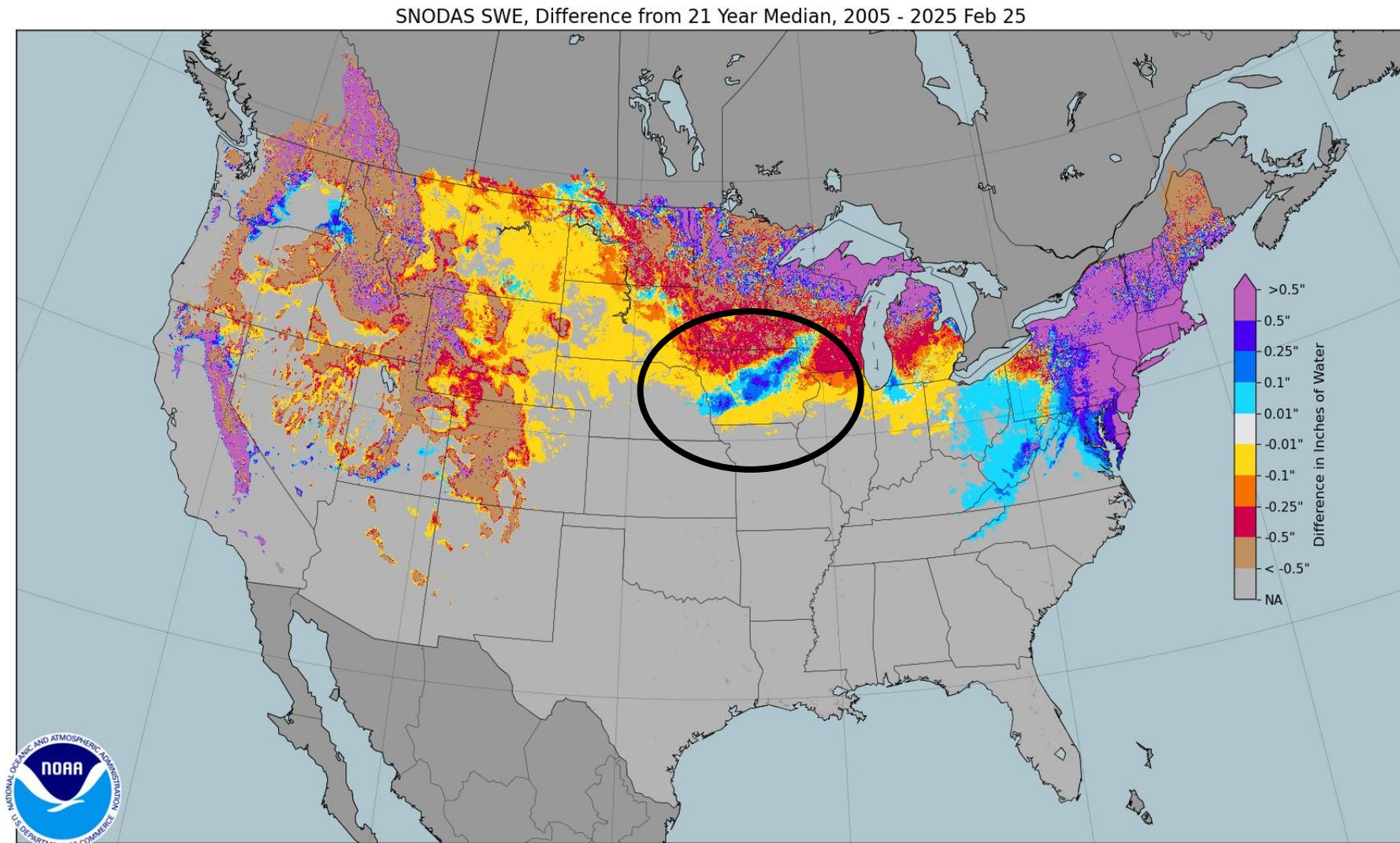


Snow Water Equivalent

February 26, 2026
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Map shows snow water equivalent departure from normal

- Where snow exists, it is generally above normal
- Impact to spring flooding risk: increase



Map from [National Hydrologic Operational Remote Sensing Center](#)

To convert centimeters (cm) to inches: approximately 2.5 cm equals one inch





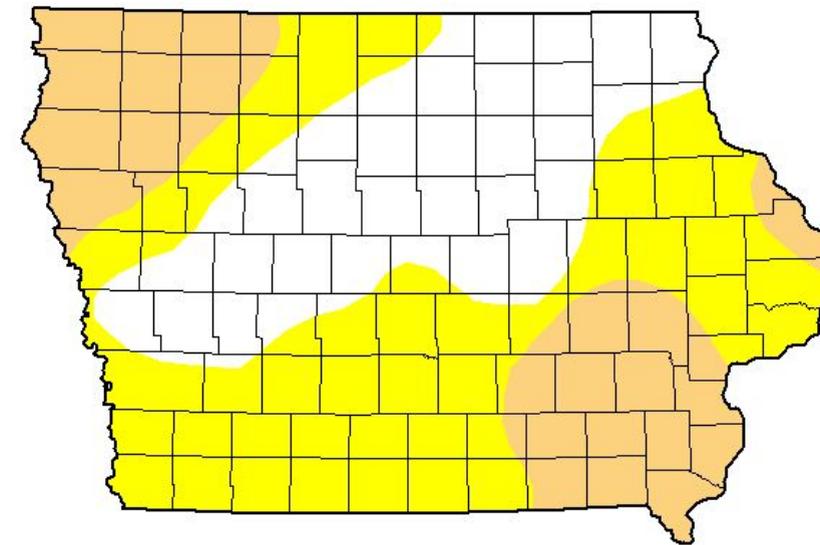
Latest Drought Conditions

February 26, 2026
9:00 AM CST

Map shows drought conditions

- Drought conditions in the far southeast (moderate drought–D1)
- Abnormally dry conditions across much of the south and northwest

U.S. Drought Monitor Iowa



February 24, 2026
(Released Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	32.11	67.89	25.27	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week <small>02-17-2026</small>	37.62	62.38	11.39	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago <small>11-25-2025</small>	28.34	71.66	21.41	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <small>01-06-2026</small>	40.38	59.62	6.13	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year <small>09-30-2025</small>	69.85	30.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago <small>02-25-2025</small>	14.46	85.54	72.65	1.30	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

None
 D2 Severe Drought
 D0 Abnormally Dry
 D3 Extreme Drought

D1 Moderate Drought
 D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Map from [U.S. Drought Monitor](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
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National Weather Service
Des Moines, Iowa



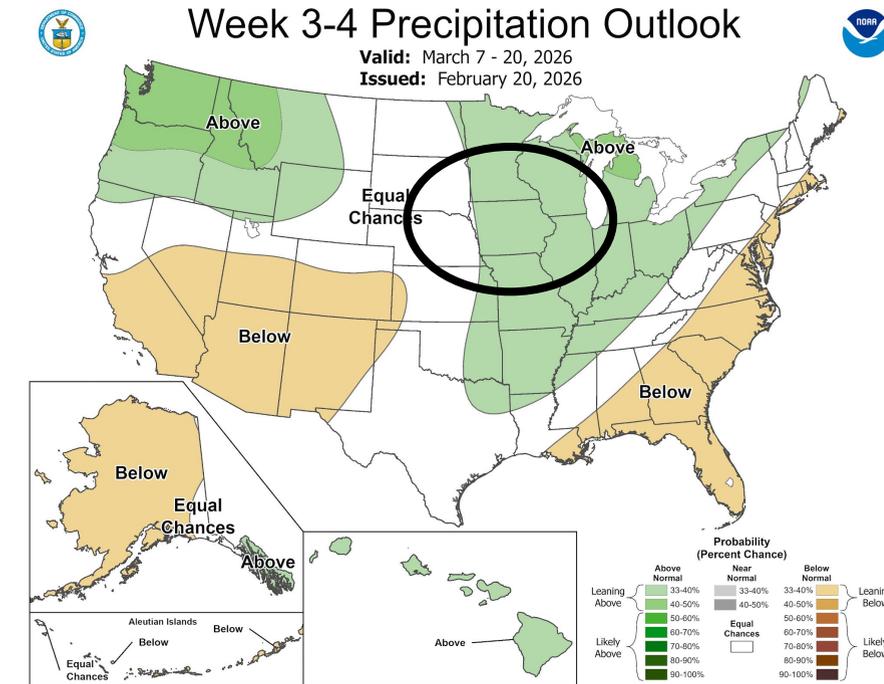
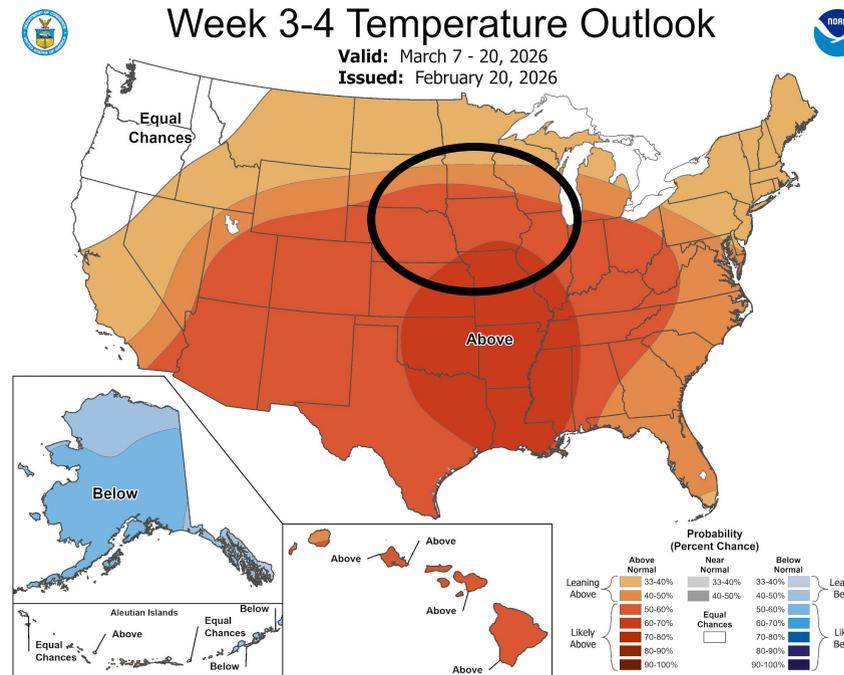
Spring Weather Outlook

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These are general outlooks that depict broad trends for the weeks and months ahead

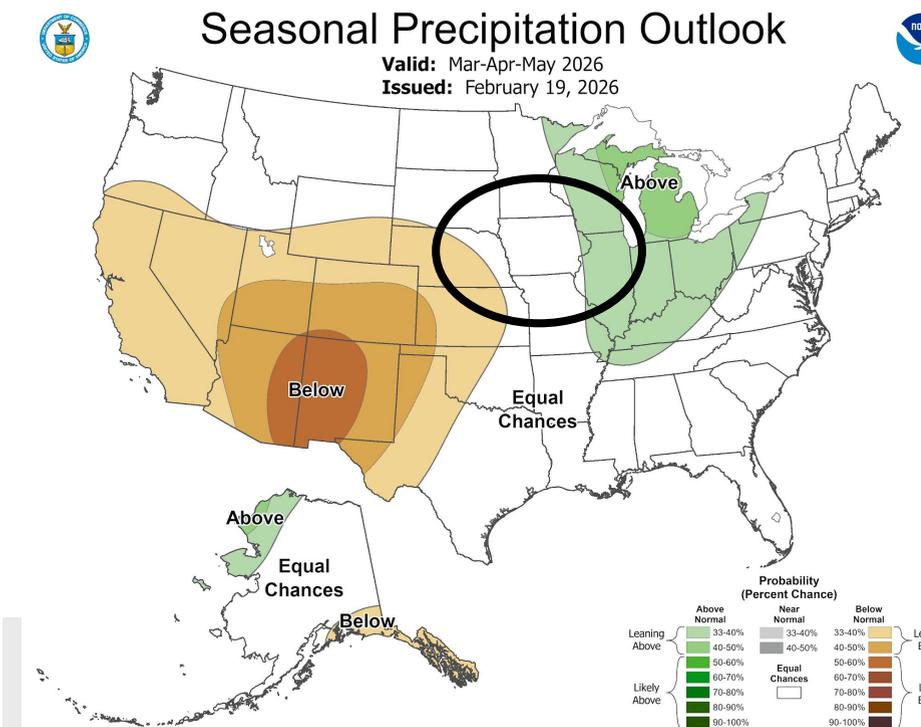
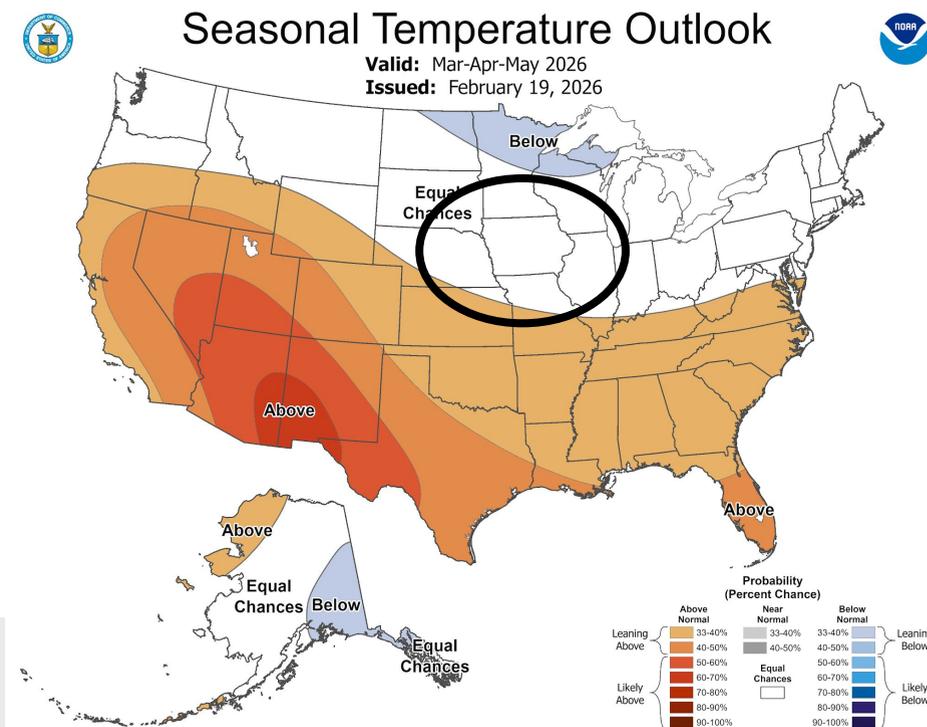
Weeks 3-4 Outlook

- Above normal temperatures likely
- Odds favor above normal precipitation
- Impact to spring flooding risk: increase



Seasonal Outlook

- Equal Chances for temperatures and precipitation
- Impact to spring flooding risk: to be determined



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U.S. Department of Commerce



Spring Flood & Water Resources Outlook

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Remain aware of your flood risk

Key Messages

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- This outlook pertains mainly to river flooding, not flash flooding.
- **Any heavy or prolonged future rainfall may significantly increase the flood risk.**

PREPARE FOR FLOODS BEFORE THEY HAPPEN

- Flooding can occur any time of year. Are you prepared?
- Find out if you're in a floodplain. Visit [floodsmart.gov](https://www.floodsmart.gov) to learn more.
- Determine the roads likely to flood so that you can plan alternate routes.
- Identify the fastest way to higher ground.

weather.gov

Next Scheduled Update

- March 12, 2026.

Additional Resources

[Mississippi River Basin Spring Flood Outlook Storymap](#)

[NWS Des Moines Website](#)

[River Observations and Forecasts for Iowa](#)

[NWS Des Moines on Facebook](#)

[NWS Des Moines on Twitter](#)

[Forecast Points \(Hourly Details\)](#)

[NWS Des Moines Hydro Decision Support](#)

[Flood Safety Information](#)

[USGS National Water Dashboard](#)

