



September 22, 2016
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11:00 AM

PRESS RELEASE

Flood Warning!

- The National Weather Service has issued a flood forecast for the Baraboo River. The Baraboo River is forecast to reach minor flood stage today, Thursday, September 22, 2016. The river is forecast to crest on Monday, September 26, 2016 at 21.5 feet, just under moderate flood stage.
- The Wisconsin River in Portage is expected to crest at 18.5 feet, by Saturday, September 24, 2016 at moderate flood stage. We are seeing flooded roads in low lying areas especially in the Blackhawk Park area. *Note that we may see higher levels on roads earlier than normal because of the high levels on Baraboo River.*
- People who live in low lying areas along the Wisconsin River are encouraged to take appropriate actions and to monitor the river levels for any change. They may 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
- RELOCATE: We are asking people living in Blackhawk Park near Portage and any low lying areas near the Wisconsin River need to take appropriate action. **The biggest concern right now is the low lying roads in the Blackhawk Park area are impassable as the river continues to rise. We encourage people living in such areas to relocate while they can as emergency vehicles may not be able to get to them in a timely manner if needed.** If you know of someone that lives in these areas please contact them to make sure they are aware of the situation. Red Cross is available if assistance in relocating is necessary.
- **FLOODED / CLOSED ROADS**
 - Blackhawk, West Lane, Lake and Old River Road in the Blackhawk Park area
 - Tritz Road in the Town of Caledonia
 - Highway 127 from Lewiston Station Road to Zietz Road (Detour route is State Highway 16)
 - Fox Run Road in the Town of Newport (culvert out)
- **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.

- Due to the rain forecasted over the next few days flooding may become a problem in other areas as well. The ground is saturated in many areas leading to excessive run off from any rain we receive.
- Officials will be monitoring the Fox River for potential flooding problems as well. The Slow No Wake Order continues on the Fox River due to high water.
- The Slow No Wake Order continues on the Big Slough in the Town of Lewiston.
- A Slow No Wake Order has been established on Swan Lake and the Wisconsin River from the Highway 33 bridge at Portage to Lake Wisconsin.
- **SANDBAGS** and sand will be available to the public to fill at the Columbia County Highway Shop located at 338 West Old Highway 16, Wyocena, (East side of highway shop building in the parking lot). You will need to bring your own equipment to fill bags and a truck or trailer to haul them.
- **FLOOD CLEAN UP KITS** will be available to anyone who needs one at the Columbia County Law Enforcement Center, 711 E. Cook Street, Portage. Please contact Columbia County Emergency Management at 608-742-4166 Ext. 1308 or 1309.
- **SUMP PUMPS** are available if needed by calling the Columbia County Emergency Management Office at 608-742-4166 Ext. 1308 or 1309.
- **FLOOD AWARENESS INFORMATION:** The Columbia County Health Department and State of Wisconsin links have many safety tips on flooding and food/water safety.

People can test their water if they are concerned, but if the area of the well is flooded or the casing is topped – it is recommended to let the water recede then test. Water Test Kits are available at the Columbia County Health & Human Services Building Door #4 located at 2652 Murphy Road, Portage during regular business hours.

<http://www.co.columbia.wi.us/columbiacounty/hhs/Divisions/PublicHealth/FloodHealthSafetyInformation/tabid/791/Default.aspx>

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p0/p00631.pdf>

- If you have any questions or are in need of assistance, you may call (608) 742-4166 Ext. 1309.

Patrick Beghin
COLUMBIA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT