



## **Montana Floodplain Program Flood Readiness Update for Communities**

April 13, 2018

### **Current Situation**

1. Wildfire Burn Areas
  - Risk will depend on spring snowmelt and possible spring rains.
  - Outreach
    - Since fall 2017, DNRC has been disseminating information about the risk of flood after wildfire to communities.
    - Flood after wildfires information added to DNRC Floodplain Website with a link to FEMA's Flood After Fire Toolkit.
    - DNRC is contacting fire-affected communities in anticipation of possible spring flooding. NWS has been in contact with these communities.
2. Ice Jam
  - Flood warnings on Missouri River (Landusky), Musselshell River, and Lower Yellowstone River (Miles City and downstream).
    - 3/27: 7-mile long ice jam at Savage (Yellowstone).
    - 3/27: Ice jam at Richland Park (photos available from NWS).
  - Other areas of the state have much less risk at this time as river ice has decreased
3. Erosion
  - Erosion issues likely on the Yellowstone and Clarks Fork River (Carbon and Yellowstone Counties) during spring runoff.
  - DNRC has started outreach efforts to possible affected communities.
4. Spring Runoff
  - Risk of flood from spring runoff is a statewide concern.
  - Potential for major flooding around Glasgow and Missoula and on the Sun River.
  - Have record high snowpack in many parts of the state.

- Important to watch how quickly temperatures rise (strings of days in the 80s) and if we see spring rains on top of runoff.
  - NWS is predicting a cooler and wetter-than-average spring in most of Montana.
  - Flooding reported in Beaverhead County and the Town of Lima. Concerns about the potential of additional flooding this spring due to heavy snowpack.
5. Reservoir Storage and Releases
- US Army Corps of Engineers
  - US Bureau of Reclamations
  - State Water Projects Bureau

## Floodplain Programmatic Activities

### Public Outreach

1. Press Releases/Media Contact
  - 1/18: Ice Jam Press Release
    - i. Messages included ice jam awareness, how to prepare home/family, importance of flood insurance (30-day waiting period).
    - ii. Picked up by Helena KTVH.
  - 2/21 Ice Jam Press Release (Eastern Montana)
    - i. Messages included ice jam threat growing, how to prepare home/family, importance of flood insurance (30-day waiting period).
    - ii. Picked up by Billings Gazette, Helena IR, Missoulian, Great Falls Tribune, Yellowstone Public Radio, Billings Color 8 News, Helena KTVH.
2. Television PSA with Lieutenant Governor Cooney (30 seconds)
  - 3/20: Developed and approved script.
    - i. Messages included increased flood risk this spring, consider flood insurance (30-day waiting period), and contact your Emergency Manager for more info.
  - 3/22: Recorded PSA with Lieutenant Governor Cooney with KTVH.
  - 3/27: Received, reviewed, and approved PSA from KTVH.
  - April: Commercial will run in all seven major Montana markets during primetime for a two-week period.
3. PIO Activities
  - Assisting with PSA Commercial. John provided coordination, including contacting media outlets and securing spokesperson.
  - Assisting with the upcoming digital campaign, contacting outlets and setting up meetings.
  - Working on coordination with key social media contacts.

4. Social Media
  - Working on coordination with key social media contacts
  - 4/6: NWS and worked with DRNC on a series of flood videos for social media. The first one on flood insurance was just released.
5. Other Advertising
  - 3/27: Meet with Helena IR to develop digital ads.
  - 3/30: Creatives sent to Helena IR. Awaiting contract information confirmation of distribution.

## Community Preparedness

1. Flood Coordination Calls for Floodplain Administrators
  - 3/23: Invited Floodplain Administrators to Kick-Off Call on 3/26
    - i. Bi-weekly, or weekly, as needed
  - 3/30: Flood Coordination Call #1 was held. Also emailed out save-the-date for the 4/13 call.
  - Working on Substantial Damage training/webinar for floodplain administrators
2. Website for Flood Coordination
  - 3/23: Began Adobe Connect website development.
  - 3/30: Transitioning away from Adobe Connect website. Instead creating a specific page on DNRC's website.
3. DNRC Highground Newsletter
  - Fall 2017: Article on flood after wildfire
4. Email Correspondence to Floodplain Administrators
  - 8/3/17: Increased Flood Risk in Wildfire Areas
  - 9/13/17: Rainfall and Potential Flash Flooding in Wildfire Areas
  - 1/2: Ice Jam Flooding Possible
  - 2/21: Ice Jam and Spring Flood Outlook
  - 3/23: Spring Flood Update and Flood Coordination Calls Kick Off
  - 3/30: Save the date for 4/13 Flood Coordination Call
5. Meetings and Trainings
  - Past efforts
    - i. 3/8: Spring Flood Outlook presentation at Assoc. of MT Floodplain Managers Conference April 2018:
    - ii. 4/4: Meet with Town of Fromberg Mayor concerning erosion and flood issues.

- iii. 4/2: Conference call with Musselshell Commissioners, Attorney, and Emergency folks on mitigation projects, emergency permitting, and community compliance.
  - iv. 4/2: Conference call with Garfield County Commissioners to discuss participation in the NFIP (in anticipation of flooding this spring).
  - v. 4/4: Meet with Petroleum County about participation in the NFIP (in anticipation of flooding this spring).
- Future efforts
    - i. April 17, 2018: Emergency Coordinators meeting at DES – Floodplain briefing
    - ii. May 2018: Flood Response/Recovery Training for Floodplain Administrators. Topics should include documenting flood damage, using FEMA’s new Substantial Damage Estimator Tool.

## Flood Response and Recovery

1. Disaster Declarations
  - Local
    - i. March: Broadwater County
    - ii. March: Fort Belknap
    - iii. 3/26: Savage Ice Jam
    - iv. 3/30: Flooding in Beaverhead and the Town of Lima
  - State
    - i. None declared at this time
  - Federal
    - i. No requests at this time
2. Media Coverage
  - Working on coordination efforts with NWS, DNRC, and DES
3. Data Collection (aerial photography, high water marks, peak discharge estimates, etc.)
  - Working on state/federal agency coordination and cooperation agreements if needed.
4. Insurance Issues/Information
  - Coordinating with FEMA acquiring historic claims and on Substantial Damage Information
  - Coordinating with Montana Insurance Commissioner on flood insurance website and information
5. Emergency Permitting and Technical Assistance
6. Individual Assistance/Public Assistance Activity

- With no requests from the governor for FEMA assistance, there is no activity at this time.

7. Substantial Damage Reports

- Currently, the only damage reported is from Broadwater County – damage to unmapped roads and a few residents.