



# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **BE SAFE ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> — FLOOD WARNING ISSUED FOR MISSISSIPPI RIVER**

Threat for flooding along Mississippi River high through next week

**ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MO** – As a result of heavy rains in the Upper Midwest over the last several days, the National Weather Service has issued a Flood Warning for communities along the Mississippi River through the middle of next week. Latest projections put the river at 5 to 8 ft. over flood stage, depending on location. Minor flooding is currently observed, but the river is expected to continue rising through this weekend and crest early next week (barring any additional rains in the Mississippi River basin area).

Those living or celebrating the Independence Day holiday along the river are advised to use extreme caution this week. Please listen to local radio or television and follow the National Weather Service (NOAA Weather Radio) for updates on conditions and river levels.

The Mississippi River level is expected to rise several feet above flood stage in Portage des Sioux, West Alton and other communities, which may result in road closures and other related impacts. Drivers are reminded of the mantra: **Turn Around, Don't Drown**. Do not attempt to cross or swim through rising waters, as a person can be swept away in as little as six inches of fast-moving water and cars or trucks can float in 6-24 inches of water depending upon their weight. If you do attempt to cross a covered waterway, and your vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and call for assistance after reaching higher ground.

The St. Charles County Division of Emergency Management is coordinating with several agencies to protect residents, their homes and their businesses, but individuals should review their personal safety plans to further these efforts. Stocking an emergency kit with necessities like water, food, medicine, battery-powered radios and flashlights, dry clothing, cleaning supplies and other items will help sustain your family should you become stranded. Residents with pets and livestock should make arrangements for their animals — including plans for sheltering, food, water and other care items. If the flooding results in the need for evacuation, residents should consider disconnecting or turning off utilities, plan several possible escape routes in case of road closures or blockages, and contact family or friends to let them know of your whereabouts.

These higher waters will also impact the speed of the current along the river. Boaters who may be planning to celebrate the holiday weekend in the area are cautioned that swift current and debris is likely during this period.

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