

WINNEBAGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE NEWS MEDIA RELEASE		NEWS RELEASE NUMBER 2019-013
INFORMATION: SHERIFF'S OFFICE PREPARATIONS FOR FORECASTED RIVER LEVELS AND FLOODING		
DATE: 03/15/19	TIME: 9:00 AM	PAGE 1 OF 2

NARRATIVE:

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Department has been monitoring river levels throughout the County and we are now experiencing flooding conditions. Recent rains and predictions for continued snow melt along with increased water levels in the river north of Winnebago County have caused rivers to rise above flood stage. We will continue to see significant increases in the water levels over the next several days.

To address flooding issues, we will continue to send out information through broadcast and social media outlets. Barricades have been placed in some areas where water levels have risen to cover the roadways, and additional barricades will be available in the event of additional road closures. Emergency Notification System calls are being made to these affected residents.

A response plan is being coordinated by the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department, along with Winnebago County; the Village of Machesney Park; and local Fire Departments.

Sand and sandbags are being made available at:

- Roscoe Public Works, 5402 Swanson Road, Roscoe, IL
- Former Machesney Park Mall southwest lot—8702 N. 2nd St., Machesney Park, IL
- New Milford Fire Station—2177 Will James Rd., New Milford, IL

Currently, the Rock River at Latham is at 13.2 feet with predictions to rise above 14 feet before cresting early next week. Residents most likely to be affected include homes along: Edgemere Terrace; Ventura Boulevard; Shore Drive; and Blackhawk Island.

The Sheriff's Office will continue to monitor the weather and river conditions for the next several days and make any adjustments to our response as needed for any changing conditions.

Though the current weather conditions are not conducive to outdoor boating activities, a **"NO WAKE ZONE"** remains in effect for the entire Rock River in Winnebago County. The presence of debris in the river creates hazardous conditions, which are difficult to detect, and the increased water flow creates a much faster current than what has been experienced over the past few months with the lower water levels. These conditions also increase the likelihood of problems for users of the river, which results in exposing first responders to dangerous conditions should a rescue situation develop.

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Residents of the area are reminded that as the water rises, flooding may continue to occur in areas affected by the higher water levels. Any additional rainfall will greatly impact the water levels, as the ground is saturated, and any significant amounts of rain over the next several days will add runoff to the water levels.

Other rivers, creeks, and streams throughout the County are also be affected, but most of those areas do not threaten homes. Motorists are also reminded that they should not drive through standing flood water. If they encounter an obstruction due to the water, they should turn around and proceed in different direction rather than take a risk at driving forward.

For current river conditions and any further updates contact the Sheriff's Office at (815) 319-6300, or the Rock River information telephone line at (815) 319-6444. You may also visit the Sheriff's Department's Facebook Page and/or website at www.winnebagoheriff.com

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> : SHERIFF : CHIEF DEPUTY : DEPUTY CHIEF OF DETECTIVE BUREAU : DEPUTY CHIEF OF PATROL BUREAU : DEPUTY CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU : DEPUTY CHIEF OF SUPPORT SERVICES : SUPERINTENDENT OF CORRECTIONS : ACCREDITATION MANAGER : MACHESNEY PARK SECTION SUPERVISOR : FOREST PRESERVE SECTION SUPERVISOR : ESDA SECTION DIRECTOR : PATROL ROLL CALL BOOK : PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER : 1ST FLOOR BULLETIN BOARD : WEB SITE COORDINATOR 	<p>SHERIFF GARY CARUANA</p> <hr/> <p>SUPERVISOR AUTHORIZING RELEASE</p> <p>DATE: <u>03/15/19</u> TIME: <u>0900 HOURS</u></p>
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