

CITY OF WAVERLY

March 2020

Department of Public Works

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“Serving the Community Throughout the Seasons”

Hazard Mitigation Newsletter



Tornado Safety

Tornadoes are violent. They can completely destroy well-made structures, uproot trees and hurl objects through the air like deadly missiles. Iowa had 52 tornadoes last year.



Go to www.weather.gov/dmx/iators2019 to view the map above and learn more about each of the 52 tornadoes that hit Iowa last year.

Tornado Wind Speeds

EF-0 Tornado = 65-85 mph wind	Damage = Light
EF-1 Tornado = 86-110 mph wind	Damage = Moderate
EF-2 Tornado = 111-135 mph wind	Damage = Considerable
EF-3 Tornado = 136-165 mph wind	Damage = Severe
EF-4 Tornado = 166-200 mph wind	Damage = Devastating
EF-5 Tornado = 200+ mph wind	Damage = Incredible

Know the Difference

Tornado Watch – Tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area. Be ready to act quickly if a warning is issued or you suspect a tornado is approaching. Acting early helps to save lives!

Tornado Warning – A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Go immediately underground to a basement, storm cellar or an interior room (closet, hallway or bathroom).

Prepare for a Tornado

Identify a safe place in your home where household members and pets should gather during a tornado, such as a basement, storm cellar or an interior room on the lowest floor with no windows.

In a mobile home, choose a safe place in a nearby sturdy building or a designated shelter. Mobile homes are not safe in a tornado.

Practice periodic tornado drills so that everyone knows what to do if a tornado is approaching.

If you are Outdoors or in a Vehicle

- Seek shelter in a basement or sturdy building.
- If you cannot make it to a shelter, lie flat in ditch or low-lying area.
- Stay away from bridges & highway overpasses.
- If strong winds and flying debris occurs while driving, pull over and park, keeping your seat belt on and engine running. Put your head down below the windows, covering your head with your hands and a blanket or a jacket.

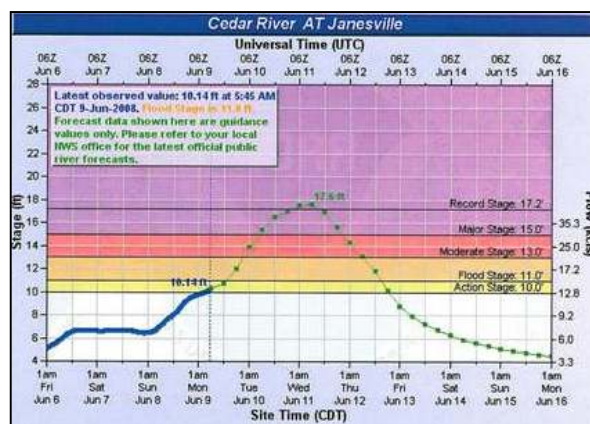
Flood Forecasting

National Weather Service

The National Weather Service does not forecast flood warnings for the Cedar River through Waverly due to the inflatable dam. Waverly residents are encouraged to monitor the river gauge in Janesville for river level forecasts by the National Weather Service when there is potential for flooding. The threat of flooding in southeast Waverly still persists and occurs when water overtops 7th Avenue SE. This becomes a concern when the Cedar River at Janesville is forecasted to exceed 13 feet.

Visit the City of Waverly's website at www.waverlyia.com/disaster-preparedness for the following links:

- **National Weather Service's Flood Prediction Site** – This site will show any flood predictions for specific communities on the Cedar River. You will find Waverly on this site, but remember there will be no predictions for Waverly. Click on "Upstream" or "Downstream" to move to other river locations. It will only show predictions when there is high water or flooding forecasted. Predictions often change so you must monitor or refresh this site often. Watch for the most recent "time & day" at the bottom of the chart.
- **U.S. Geological Society** – This site shows current Cedar River levels, plus additional information regarding the river, such as water temperature and stream velocity. No predictions are given on this site.



This is a sample of the National Weather Service chart for Janesville when flooding has been predicted. Please note that the blue line is actual river level and the green dashed line is the predicted river level.

The predicted level will change as the National Weather Service monitors rain (actual and forecasted) and river levels.

Flooding...A Triple Threat

There are 3 Different Ways Basements Can Flood

1. **Surface Water** where river flooding and/or heavy rains inundate floodplains causing damage in low-lying areas.
2. **Ground Water** can flood basements or damage basement walls. Areas near or within floodplains are at risk of surface water saturating the sandy alluvial soils and bypassing any aboveground flood barriers such as sandbag levees.
3. **Sewer Backup** may occur in homes and businesses that have floor drains or sinks and toilets that are lower than the floodwaters. Sewer backup is caused by the sanitary sewer mains becoming overloaded with floodwater from either infiltration or flooded basements draining into the sewer system and overloading the pipes. Having your local plumber install a backflow valve may help prevent this problem.

Be Flood Wise

Sandbagging around your home may be ineffective if there is a threat of groundwater or sewer backup.

Move possessions aboveground and out of harm's way first.

Don't pump water out of your basement! This can lead to a wall failure due to outside water pressure against your basement wall. Let the water go out through the floor drain.

Preventing Snowmelt Problems

Until the spring thaw, the hard, frozen earth prevents melting snow or rainfall from seeping into the ground. The resulting runoff can overflow streams, rivers and lakes. Add spring rains and you have a recipe for serious seasonal floods.

Snow can hold a lot of water. Each cubic foot of drifted, piled or compacted snow may contain several gallons of water. If you take action, you can prevent that snow from becoming a flooding problem in and around your house.

Make sure downspouts carry water several feet away from your house to a well-drained area. About 2,500 gallons of water will come from a 1,000 square-foot roof with one foot of snow depth across the roof. This much water may cause problems if it's allowed to drain next to your house.

Move snow on the ground away from your house. Water from the snow may cause a wet basement if allowed to run down along the basement wall. If the ground is sloped 1 inch per foot near the house, moving the snow just 3 to 5 feet from the house will reduce problems.

If you have a sump pump, examine and clean it. Test your sump pump by pouring water into the pit. Make sure the discharge hose carries the water several feet away from your house to a well-drained area. Also make sure that the pipe is on sloped ground so it drains to prevent it from freezing.

Severe Weather Awareness



National Weather Service Flood Safety Awareness March 2020

National Flood Safety Awareness is intended to highlight some of the many ways floods can occur, the hazards associated with floods, and what you can do to save life and property.

Websites with helpful flood safety and awareness information:

- www.weather.gov/safety/flood
- www.floodsmart.gov
- www.waverlyia.com

No computer? The Waverly Public Library has computers for public use.

Be Flood Smart

- Everyone lives in a flood zone.
 - High-Risk Zones – Areas within the Cedar River and Dry Run Creek floodplains.
 - Low-Risk Zones – All areas because of heavy rain or snow melt.
- Most homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage.
- Just an inch of water can cause costly damage to your property.
- Winter storms and snowmelt are common causes of flooding that are often overlooked.
- If you live in a low-to-moderate risk area and are eligible for the Preferred Risk Policy, your flood insurance premium may be as low as \$150 a year, including coverage for your property's contents.
- Your home has a 26% chance of being damaged by a flood during the course of a 30-year mortgage, compared to a 10% chance of fire.
- One-third of all claims paid by flood insurance were for policies in low-risk communities.
- If you live in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) or high-risk area and have a federally-backed mortgage, your mortgage lender requires you to have flood insurance.



Weather Radio

For additional protection from severe weather, consider purchasing a weather radio with battery backup. In the event of a weather emergency, a weather radio can alert you to a life-threatening event and give you extra time to prepare, shelter in place or evacuate if necessary.



Iowa's Severe Weather Awareness Week

Iowa's Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 23-27, 2020. This week is an annual event to remind Iowans that severe weather is part of living in our state. Understanding the risks and how to respond to them can save lives.

Everyone should have a plan in place and this plan should be practiced in the event of a severe storm. Take a few minutes of your time and designate the safety "go to" locations for you and your family.

Iowa's statewide tornado drill is scheduled for March 25, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. For more information on how to prepare for severe weather, go to www.weather.gov and check out "Safety".

When Thunder Roars – Go Indoors!

Lightning is the #2 cause of weather-related deaths in the United States.

If you are outdoors:

- No place outside is safe when thunderstorms are in the area!
- If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike you.
- When you hear thunder, immediately move to a safe shelter/building or metal-topped vehicle with windows up.
- Stay in safe shelter at least 30 minutes after you hear the last sound of thunder.

If you are indoors:

- Stay off corded phones, computers and other electrical equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity.
- Avoid plumbing, including sinks, baths and faucets.
- Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off porches.
- Do not lie on concrete floors, and do not lean against concrete walls.

If you are caught outside with no safe shelter:

- Immediately get off elevated areas such as hills, etc.
- Never lie flat on the ground.
- Never shelter under an isolated tree.
- Immediately get out and away from bodies of water.

Spring Weather Safety

Know Your Risk
Take Action
Be a Force of Nature

City of Waverly
Department of Public Works
200 1st Street NE
P.O. Box 616
Waverly, IA 50677

Presort
Standard
U.S. Postage
Waverly, IA
Permit No.2

Postal Customer Carrier Route Presort



FEM



Department of Public Works

Is Your Property in a Flood Zone?

1. Go to <https://www.msc.fema.gov/portal/home>.
2. Type your address in the designated box and press "Search".
3. Your search results will show your address location on the flood map.



Turn Around – Don't Drown!

Flooding is the #1 cause of weather-related deaths in the United States.

Don't underestimate the power of water!

6 inches of fast-moving water can knock over and carry away an adult.

12 inches of fast-moving water can carry away a small car.

18-24 inches of fast-moving water can carry away a large SUV.

Bremer County Emergency Notification System



If you have not already signed up for **Alert Iowa** to receive weather alerts and nonweather-related alerts for Bremer County, go to the following site to register or to update your phone number if it has changed:

www.waverlyia.com/alertiowa

In the event of an emergency or severe weather, an alert will be sent to the phone number and/or email address provided by voice, text and/or email.

If you need assistance, contact the Alert Iowa coordinator at 515-725-3231 or alertiowa@iowa.gov.



www.waverlyia.com

Public Works Administration 319-352-9065
Public Services 319-352-6247

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