

THEN & NOW



June 15, 2010



June 6, 2011

Steve and Jackie Williams' deck at the Armstrong Place, straight south of Meckling. The photo on the left was taken June 15, 2010, while the photo on the right was taken June 6, 2011.

(Photos by Jackie Williams/P&D)

DEBRIS IN RIVER



The Missouri River is filled with debris as the current and water levels increase this week as water is released from South Dakota's reservoirs. To protect the public and limit additional damage to homes and other private property along the flooding river, Gov. Dennis Daugaard has closed boat access facilities below the Gavins Point Dam.

(David Lias/Plain Talk)

Prevent heat-related illness during flood response

South Dakotans involved in flood response efforts need to protect themselves from heat-related illness, according to the Department of Health.

The body normally cools itself by sweating but when humidity is high, sweat can't evaporate as quickly and the body can't release heat as quickly. When that happens, the body temperature can rise rapidly and damage the brain and other vital organs.

The very young, the elderly and those ill with conditions such as heart disease are particularly at risk. However, even young and healthy individuals can suffer heat-related illness if they participate in strenuous physical activities during hot weather. Take the following steps to protect yourself:

- Drink two to four glasses (16 - 32 oz.) of cool fluids each hour. Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink. A sports beverage can replace the salt and minerals you lose in sweat.
- Avoid alcohol or drinks

with a lot of sugar - they cause your body to lose more fluid. Also, avoid very cold drinks, because they can cause stomach cramps.

- Take regular rest breaks in a shady spot or air-conditioned place - even a few hours spent in air conditioning can help your body stay cooler.

- Protect yourself from the sun by wearing a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses, and by putting on sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher.

- Monitor the condition of your co-workers and have someone do the same for you. Heat-induced illness can cause a person to become confused or lose consciousness.

More information is also available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/. More information on flood response efforts is available at <http://disasterrecovery.sd.gov>.

Floods displace wildlife

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department reports that wildlife is being displaced due to flood waters, and the public should keep a healthy distance from these animals.

The number of calls about fawns and other wildlife from woody areas now filled with

flood waters have increased tremendously.

"The best thing people can do is leave wildlife where they find it, even if it appears to be displaced by flood waters, as there is a very good chance the mother will be back for it" Ron Schauer, GFP Regional Wildlife Manager in Sioux

Falls, said.

The number of calls about "abandoned" fawns is on the rise in GFP offices, he said.

There may be health risks from handling wildlife, including rabies from animals like skunks. In addition, it is illegal for individuals to remove and possess deer

fawns from the wild, he said, even if they look abandoned or displaced.

"Due to the very low chances of surviving in the wild after being raised in captivity, the best care they can receive is from their own parents or in the wild," he said.

Workers impacted by flooding may qualify for unemployment

The Department of Labor and Regulation reminds workers who have been laid off as a result of flood-related issues they may be eligible for unemployment insurance (UI) benefits.

"Some businesses have been forced to close because of flooding," said State Labor and Regulation Secretary Pam Roberts. "If affected employees meet certain eligibility guidelines and monetary wage requirements, they may qualify

for benefits."

UI benefits provide a temporary source of income to people who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own until they find other work. Per statutory requirement, claimants must serve a one week waiting period before receiving benefit payments.

People can file claims online at www.sd.uicclaims.com or by calling 605-626-3179 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:20 p.m. (CDT).

Portion of Highway 12 closed

Nebraska State officials have closed a portion of Nebraska Highway 12 just south of the South Dakota/Nebraska state line due to flooding of the Missouri River.

S.D. Highway 37 south of Running Water meets up with Nebraska Highway 12 on the other side of the Standing Bear Bridge over the Niobrara River. This essentially creates a dead end on S.D. Highway 37 as well as cuts off access to

Niobrara, NE from this route.

Motorists will need to find an alternate route.

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For up-to-date information on the Missouri River Flood of 2011 visit Riverwatch Blog at <http://davidlias.wordpress.com/>

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