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Iowa Flood Center tools to prepare for flooding

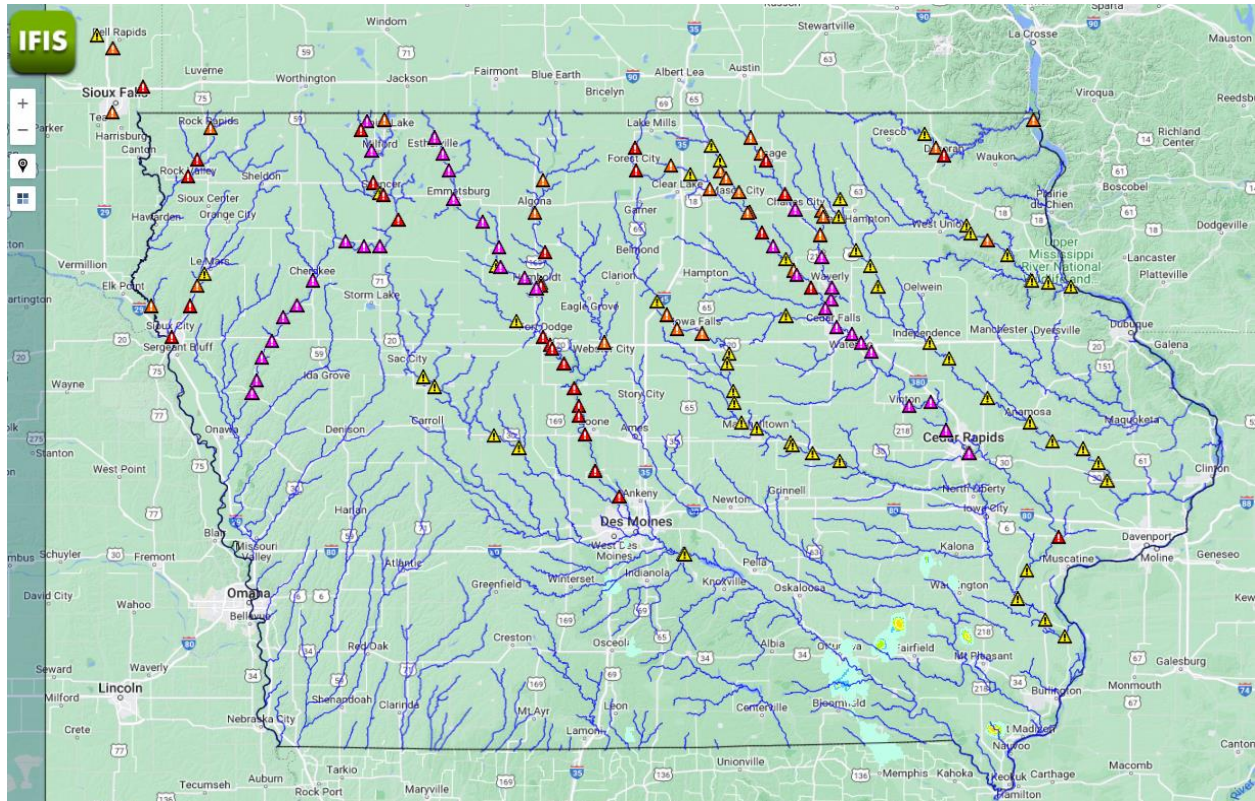


Figure 1 Forecasted flood alerts shown on the Iowa Flood Information System. Forecasts are updated every hour on IFIS.

As communities in northwest Iowa experience record flooding and others prepare for cresting river levels this week, the Iowa Flood Center (IFC) has tools available to help understand and reduce flood risks.

The IFC developed Iowa Flood Information System (IFIS) is a Google Maps-based online tool that communicates real-time information about stream levels, flood alerts and forecasts, and hydrologic conditions for the entire state. The information provided by IFIS can help minimize flood damages and protect people, infrastructure, and the environment. Visit ifis.iowafloodcenter.org for access to:

- More than 270 IFC-designed, -built, and -deployed stream sensors that collect [river levels every 15 minutes](#) and share data on IFIS. The statewide network complements U.S. Geological Survey stream gages by filling in data gaps to improve flood monitoring and forecasting.

- Flood alerts and forecasts for more than [1,000 Iowa communities](#), helping Iowans better plan and prepare in advance of a flood.
- High-resolution flood inundation maps that show the extent of possible flooding for every Iowa stream in all 99 counties. Detailed [community-based maps](#) are available for dozens of cities in Iowa (with more added every year) to show how predicted flood extent and depth could affect property and critical infrastructure.
- A network of [hydrologic weather stations](#) that collects data on rainfall, soil moisture and temperature conditions, groundwater levels in shallow wells, and other weather data. The IFC will add more than 30 new hydrostations to its network over the summer, helping to improve flood- and drought- monitoring and forecasting. IFC is working toward a goal of one hydrostation in every county to better predict floods, assess droughts, and manage Iowa's water resources.

The Iowa Flood Center serves as a technical resource and is available to assist communities in answering questions and providing expertise to navigate flood challenges currently happening around the state.

The Iowa Flood Center is part of the University of Iowa College of Engineering and is the first and only center in the nation focused solely on flood-related research and education. The IFC was established by the state of Iowa in 2009 following the devastating 2008 floods to help Iowans understand and reduce their flood risks.

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