



KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Emergency Management Monitoring Potential Flooding Issues
Grand River Levels Rising from Rain this Week

GRAND RAPIDS – The National Weather Service in Grand Rapids issued a Flood Warning for the Grand River until Tuesday morning. The County could have some of the highest levels seen in quite some time, but a repeat of the severe flooding seen in April 2013 is not anticipated. Kent County Emergency Management reminds everyone that spring flooding can quickly become dangerous and in some cases, deadly. There are some areas where flooding is already occurring after the rain received over the past week. While no emergencies are expected at this time, there are areas that historically have seen flooding. If you live or travel through these areas, being aware is important.

Health and safety are still the top priorities for residents and County personnel. River and creek waters can move fast and carry debris that can be dangerous. Just six inches of fast-moving flood water can knock people off their feet, and two feet of flood waters can carry a car. Do not try to walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. If you see flood water in the road, or barricades posted on roads, please turn around and take a different route. “We ask that residents be aware and cautious as river levels rise,” said Jack Stewart, Kent County Emergency Management Coordinator. “The National Weather Service says flooding is likely along nearly the entire stretch of the Grand River and its associated tributaries. We will monitor the situation throughout the weekend.”

This morning, the Grand River was measured at 13.8 feet; flood stage is 18.0 feet. The River is expected to rise above flood stage Sunday before midnight and continue to rise to near 18.1 feet by early Monday morning. Residents in low lying areas of Grand Rapids may see basement flooding, and moderate flooding could happen for homes and structures in Comstock Park as well as Robinson Township (Ottawa County). The River should return to below flood stage by Monday night.

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