



KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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River Levels Receding; More Rain in Forecast

GRAND RAPIDS – Today the National Weather Service in Grand Rapids extended Flood Warnings and Advisories for the Grand River and the Thornapple River. Comstock Park and Lowell could continue to have flooding issues, but it appears that the Grand River has peaked in Grand Rapids at 17.46 feet, below flood stage of 18 feet. Crews measured several other rivers in West Michigan that were above flood stage over the weekend. More rain is in the forecast, which is expected to slow down the receding process.

Kent County Emergency Management says this incident will not reach the level of concern that we saw in 2013, when the Grand River reached nearly four feet above flood stage. “My office has been in regular contact with officials throughout the County, from Lowell to Grand Rapids to Grandville,” said Jack Stewart, Kent County Emergency Management Coordinator. “So far, we have been fortunate that there have been no injuries reported in Kent County related to the flooding. Our Emergency Operations staff will continue monitor the situation throughout the week.”

There have been a number of water rescues in neighboring counties due to kayakers capsizing. “These waters are fast moving, very cold and dangerous,” Stewart said. “When you decide to risk your safety by getting in the water, you are also putting first responders at risk.”

The Kent County Health Department reminds everyone that flood waters can have invisible hazards. “Historically, when the Grand River floods, we have seen levels of *E coli* and other contaminants increase,” said Adam London, Administrative Health Officer of the Kent County Health Department. “We urge residents to stay out of flood waters. If you have water in your basements, please handle items with care, either by disposing of wet items or when possible, cleaning wet items with a disinfectant.”

Over the weekend, the Kent County Road Commission announced several road closures. Do not try to walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. River and creek waters can move fast and carry debris that can be dangerous. Six inches of fast-moving flood water can knock people off their feet. Just two feet of floodwaters can sweep away a car. If you see flood water in the road, or barricades/signs posted on roads, for your safety and that of first responders, please turn around and take a different route.

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