

News Release

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Streamgages Measure Flooding in Iowa

Reporters: Do you want to accompany a USGS field crew as they measure flooding? Please contact Jon Nania at 319-430-6974.

U.S. Geological Survey, Iowa Water Science Center field crews are measuring flooding on rivers and streams across most of eastern Iowa. There are 17 USGS streamgages currently at or above flood stage with another 17 just shy of flood stage. With additional rainfall, those numbers are expected to increase.

USGS scientists are collecting critical streamflow data that are vital for protection of life, property and the environment. These data are used by the National Weather Service to develop flood forecasts, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to manage flood control, the IA DOT & IA DNR and local agencies in their flood response activities. More information is available on the USGS Iowa Water Science Center [website](#).

There are 166 USGS-operated streamgages in Iowa that measure water levels, streamflow, and/or rainfall. When flooding occurs, USGS crews make numerous discharge measurements to verify the data it provides to federal, state, and local agencies, as well as to the public.

"These measurements are made using state of the art equipment, including hydroacoustic meters, which greatly improves the ability of the USGS to make accurate and reliable discharge measurements under extreme flow conditions" According to Jon Nania, USGS Supervisory Hydrologist.

For more than 125 years, the USGS has monitored flow in selected streams and rivers across the U.S. The information is routinely used for water supply and management, monitoring floods and droughts, bridge and road design, determination of flood risk, and for many recreational activities.

Access current flood and high flow conditions across the country by visiting the USGS [WaterWatch](#) website. Receive instant, customized updates about water conditions in your area via text message or email by signing up for USGS [WaterAlert](#).

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