



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Spencer Activates Level 1 Flood Response Plan as Precaution

SPENCER, IA (July 2, 2026) – The City of Spencer has officially activated a **Level 1** response under the City's Flood Response Plan effective immediately. This proactive measure is in response to recent heavy rainfall in the headwaters of the Ocheyedan and Little Sioux rivers, which is currently moving downstream toward the Spencer area. **Currently the most likely crest of the Little Sioux River at the Grand Ave Bridge is approximately 12' for early next week July 5th through the 7th. As a reminder all predictions are subject to change based on actual rainfall location. As of today, July 2nd, the river level at the Grand Avenue Bridge is 7'.**

Current forecasts for the Little Sioux River at the Grand Avenue Bridge indicate that water levels will rise over the next several days, with the river expected to crest early next week.

"While we are taking these rising river levels seriously, this Level 1 activation is primarily a preparatory step," said the City Manager. "The current forecast does not project river levels reaching our Level 2 response threshold. However, our municipal teams are fully prepared to escalate our response efforts without delay should conditions change."

As a reminder the response levels are listed below:

Level 1 is 10' to 14'

Level 2 is 14' to 16'

Level 3 is 16' +

The berm system can handle up to 18' of river level at the Grand Avenue bridge before street flooding occurs on the south side of the bridge. Below are historic crests for reference:

Historic Crests

1. 22.20 ft on 06-22-2024
2. 20.20 ft on 06-08-1953
3. 17.60 ft on 06-21-1954
4. 17.45 ft on 03-15-2019
5. 17.40 ft on 06-26-2018



6. 17.37 ft on 04-06-1965
7. 17.00 ft on 07-01-1993
8. 16.50 ft on 04-01-1951
9. 16.50 ft on 07-16-2011
10. 16.20 ft on 06-22-1984
11. 16.20 ft on 04-07-1969
12. 16.00 ft on 03-15-2007
13. 15.55 ft on 03-16-2010
14. 15.40 ft on 03-21-1936
15. 15.18 ft on 06-20-2014

What the City is Doing:

- **Active Monitoring:** City staff are monitoring river levels and weather forecasts several times a day to ensure the City operates with the most up-to-date and accurate information.

The City of Spencer remains committed to the safety of our residents and the protection of property. There is no immediate threat to the general public at this time. We encourage residents to stay informed by monitoring local weather updates and official City of Spencer communications.

Media Contact:

City Manager's Office
City of Spencer
101 W 5th Street
Spencer, IA 51301

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Robinson".