



## NEWS RELEASE

# Department of Public Safety

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### **Dakota Dunes Reopens to Public Access; Progress Made on Levee Construction**

**DAKOTA DUNES, S.D.** - Tonight at 7 p.m., the streets of Dakota Dunes were reopened to traffic after a six-hour closure that was put in place to allow for expedited construction of the emergency protective levees.

The temporary traffic closure led in significant progress in levee construction, which is on track as crews build a strong foundation for the levees. Although public access to Dakota Dunes has been restored, Governor Daugaard reiterated that only those who need to be in Dakota Dunes should come there.

"We are in a race against the clock," Governor Daugaard said. "Every time a truck working on the levies or a National Guard vehicle must stop for other traffic, the risk of being unsuccessful goes up. Every minute is important."

At the same time, residents of Dakota Dunes are continuing efforts to have their possessions moved, homes secured and be out of those homes by late Thursday, June 2, as has been previously announced. Residents should expect to be away from their homes for as much as two months because elevated releases of water from the mainstem dams will continue for several weeks.

"We hope that levees will protect Dakota Dunes from flooding, but residents should assume the worst," Governor Daugaard said. "Every homeowner should take individual action to secure their property and we recommend that they be ready to be out of Dakota Dunes by Thursday evening."

Dakota Dunes still needs more volunteers to fill sandbags for protective measures. Volunteers are asked to bring shovels. There is also a need for pallets to haul sandbags. The sandbagging operations are taking place at the former Gateway building in the north parking lot, which is labeled "Mexico." Sandbags are also available to be picked up at this location, although residents must arrange for own transportation of the sandbags.

More information is available by calling the Dakota Dunes Calling Center, at 605-220-3079, 605-220-3078, or 605-202-3312, or by visiting <http://www.breadysd.com/>.

*Media with inquiries are asked to call the Command Post Information Center at 605-220-3077.*