



## NEWS RELEASE

# Department of Public Safety

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### **Police Assure Displaced Residents Homes Will Be Protected**

**PIERRE, S.D. –** Pierre and Fort Pierre area local law enforcement officials are assuring residents who leave their homes because of Missouri River flooding that their property will be watched and access to their neighborhoods will be controlled.

Residents of flood-threatened areas of the two communities were told to voluntarily leave their homes by 8 p.m. Thursday, June 2. Law enforcement officials have plans in place to assure the security of both private and public property impacted by the flooding.

The plans will allow officers to identify homes that are vacant and those that are occupied, and the only persons who are allowed into the affected neighborhoods will be those authorized to be there and pre-approved for entry.

“Our primary focus is to keep citizens and property safe, but we intend to be as accommodating as possible of residents who left their homes,” said Pierre Police Chief Bob Grandpre. “We know citizens are extremely worried during this time. We hope to ease some of their concerns by assuring them that their homes will be vigilantly watched around the clock until this situation has passed.”

Grandpre said some residents already are asking when they will be allowed to return to their homes.

“The best answer I can give at this point is that we will let people return to their homes when it is safe,” he said. “I’m sorry it has to be that way, and I ask people to have patience with us until we can allow them back into their homes and neighborhoods.”

Officers will also be conducting patrols around the levees as well as public infrastructure that have been protected from flood water.

Persons caught trespassing or disturbing levees will be subject to arrest.