



NEWS RELEASE

Department of Public Safety

118 W. Capitol Ave. • Pierre, SD 57501 • (605) 773-3178 • fax: (605) 773-3018 • www.state.sd.us/dps

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, June 13

CONTACT: Terry Woster, Public Information Office, 605.773.3231

State Dispatches Incident Management Assistance Team

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Public Safety has dispatched an Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) to southeast South Dakota to help local entities coordinate their response to recent flooding on the Missouri River.

The 10-member team has been sent to Dakota Dunes to assist officials in Union, Clay and Yankton counties. This team will replace the Type 2 Incident Management Team (IMT) team that has been working in the area for the past two weeks.

IMAT teams were created by the department in 2007 for the purpose of increasing local incident management capability by providing situation assessment, coordinating resource requests, and helping to plan ahead for additional resource needs during and after the incident.

For this flood event, the team will work with local county emergency management as well as tribal officials, first responders, electrical cooperatives and other utility officials to assess and determine immediate response needs.

The team will not take over incident management activities. It will assist local officials in the impacted area with responding to the incident.

The IMAT team members are from South Dakota and include state, city, and county personnel who bring a wide variety of expertise including finance, administration, fire, law enforcement, and emergency management. Each individual has also completed nearly 200 hours of training. Each time a team is dispatched, they bring all of that experience and training with them.

Currently, there are four teams in the state with a total of 50 people located in western, central, southeast, and northeast South Dakota. The size of the team dispatched is based on the needs of each particular incident.

Since its inception, the IMAT teams have been dispatched eight times in addition to the current incident.