



## NEWS RELEASE

# Department of Public Safety

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Tuesday, May 24, 2011

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### **Residents along Missouri River Alerted to Higher Water Flows**

**PIERRE, S.D. –** State officials are alerting residents along the Missouri River in South Dakota to prepare for significantly higher water levels as the Corps of Engineers increases releases from the dams.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard ordered the State Emergency Operations Center activated effective Wednesday, May 25, 2011, to assure a coordinated response to the increased flows on the river.

Winter snowmelt and spring rains have raised some of the Missouri River reservoirs close to record levels. Releases from Oahe Dam north of Pierre were increased on Tuesday. Further increases were planned for Wednesday and again later in the week.

Corps officials say the releases will be at record-high levels. That will raise water levels on the river significantly, especially in the Pierre and Fort Pierre area and in the area downstream from Fort Randall Dam to below Gavins Point Dam. It's uncertain how long the increased releases will continue but it could be a number of weeks.

The State Office of Emergency Management is coordinating preparation and response to the higher water levels with other state agencies and the Corps of Engineers, as well as with county, city and tribal governments.

Residents along the river are urged to take basic precautions to protect themselves and their property from flooding. Those steps include:

- Safeguard your possessions. Put copies of insurance policies, financial records and other critical documents in a waterproof container, along with an inventory of major household items.
- Make sure the sump pump is working and consider a battery-operated backup. Consider adding a sewer plug to your system.
- If possible, move furniture and valuable items such as photo albums and family keepsakes to a safe place.

For more information, visit [www.bReadySD.com](http://www.bReadySD.com)