

Iowa DOT offers “Flood Cam” Road Images August 13, 2010

Iowa DOT offers flood cam images and safety warnings

The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) is announcing the availability of Web cam images of the flooding on U.S. 65 north of Bondurant and in the vicinity of Interstate 80 near Colfax. The Iowa DOT is also asking motorists to heed the safety warnings mentioned below.

Webcam images

The Iowa DOT has established a Web site where the public may view snapshots of the flooding in these areas – <http://www.iowadot.gov/floodcam.html>. The images are refreshed every 5-15 minutes.

The photos illustrate the gravity of the flooding over U.S. 65, where the water extends nearly a mile in width and approximately 1 foot deep. The rushing water is likely to result in damage to the shoulders and roadway, and repairs will be necessary. This could delay the reopening of some lanes of traffic.

Extensive flooding is occurring near Colfax. Interstate 80 remains OPEN at this time, but is being closely monitored. The Web cam images help put the flooding in this area into perspective, as it covers a vast amount of landscape. The water is forecast to rise again in this area, and may encroach on the shoulders and ramps in some areas.

Safety warnings

Water-covered roadways are extremely dangerous. Flood waters can quickly sweep a vehicle off the roadway. The rushing water can wash away shoulder materials and sections of roadway, undermine roadway pavement, and cause damage to bridges and culverts.

- Do not enter a water-covered roadway.
- It is illegal to move traffic cones, barricades, fencing, gates or other roadway closures.
- Stay out of flooded areas. Sightseeing can place you and others at unnecessary risk.