

FLOOD

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feet. The flood stage is 9 feet, and the river is predicted to crest near 9.6 feet today (Saturday).

At stages near 10 feet, moderate flooding of agricultural land begins. The river is predicted to fall below flood stage by Sunday.

"We are seeing a big rise down the Vermillion River," Gillispie said. "The West Fork near Parker is near flood stage now. It's not going up a lot more, maybe another half-foot. But the East Fork is also running almost bank full. By the time those two come together downstream, there will be moderate flood levels developing."

The NWS has also issued a flood warning for the Vermillion River near Davis and near Wakonda. The river should crest at Davis on Sunday afternoon and at Wakonda on Tuesday, Gillispie said.

At Davis, the Vermillion River stood at 5.2 feet Friday morning. However, the river is expected to rise above the flood stage of 11 feet this morning and crest near 14 feet by Sunday. The flood warning remains in effect until next Friday.

At 14 feet, moderate flooding of agricultural land begins and water reaches the bottom of the bridge one mile west of Davis on Highway 18. The town of Davis and rural roads also become threatened by flooding.

Downstream, a flood warning has been issued for the Vermillion River near Wakonda from this afternoon until further notice.

The river stood at about 7 feet near Wakonda on Friday morning. The river is expected to rise above the flood stage of 14 feet by 4 p.m. today and crest near 16.5 feet by Wednesday.

At stages near 16.5 feet, major flooding of agricultural land south of Davis begins. Water will have reached the bottom of the bridge on 304th Street west of Dalesburg, and approximately 10,000 acres could be flooded between Centerville and Vermillion.

In addition, Highway 19 south of Centerville, along with several county roads, could flood at that level.

several different circulations that produced the greatest damage, he said.

Yankton County emergency manager Jeremy Dangel came up with similar findings, Temeyer said.

At 2 a.m. Friday, a wind gust of 67 mph was measured at the Yankton airport.

"The Yankton area is where it started to grow and move south, even beyond the state border," Temeyer said. "The National Weather Service in Omaha issued several warnings."

In northeast Nebraska, law enforcement officials reported localized flooding in Antelope, Pierce, Wayne and southern Cedar counties. Excessive runoff from heavy rainfall had caused flooding of small creeks and streams and country roads, as well as farmland along the banks of creeks and streams.

The NWS office in Omaha reported 24-hour rainfall totals of 2.85 inches in Wayne, 2.81 inches in Neligh, 1.69 inches in Bloomfield, 1.65 inches in Randolph and 1.4 inches in Verdel. A flash flood watch remained in effect for much of northeast Nebraska, including Knox, Cedar and Dixon counties.

Friday's storm system wreaked tremendous damage as it moved through southeast South Dakota, Temeyer said. The system moved quickly, creating its damage between 2-3 a.m. Friday.

In Yankton County, Mission Hill had power lines down with large trees down and grain bins destroyed.

In Clay County, Vermillion sustained an estimated 70 mph winds. Large branches were downed, and a United Parcel Service (UPS) truck was blown over by wind gusts. The city also reported flash flooding.

A roof was partially torn off a church one mile northwest of Vermillion, while empty grain bins were blown off their anchors northeast of Vermillion.

Moving to the southeast, North Sioux City registered 90 mph winds, Temeyer said. Wind-measuring equipment broke at 92 mph.

Damage included roofs torn off mobile homes, buildings blown onto the road, and a tree

blown into a house in North Sioux City.

Trees knocked down power lines in Sioux City. About five miles south-southeast of Sioux City, a tractor-trailer was tipped onto an ammonia truck at a truck stop.

"Basically, we had reports of anywhere from 2 to 4 inches (of rainfall) during the storm, with some isolated locations receiving 5 inches," Temeyer said.

The NWS has even received reports of 6 and 7 inches of rain during a two-day period in Dimock, Mitchell and Corsica, Gillispie said.

"You don't usually have the same area hit with two or three systems in a row," he said.

MORE ON THE WAY

Another big storm complex appears forming in the Nebraska Panhandle, Gillispie said. The best predictions call for the system to hit southeast South Dakota, east of the Missouri River and south of Interstate 90, he said.

The system should move through the region this morning without a great deal of precipitation, then clear up this afternoon and evening. Another round of precipitation could move through the area late tonight and early Sunday morning. The storms are not expected to be severe.

"Basically, we aren't seeing any significant change in the current pattern," Gillispie said. "It looks like it will continue through Monday night before we finally have a 24-hour period without any change in the forecast."

Areas along and south of Interstate 90, and east of a line from Yankton to Sioux Falls, could see further flash flooding should heavy rains occur.

The continued rainfall could produce flooded crops, Gillispie said. That could be particularly true along the Vermillion River, where farmers had fields that dried out after earlier flooding, he said.

"Potentially in the Vermillion (River) basin, there were people that were able to get in and plant in the lower-lying areas," he said. "Now, they could possibly be damaged by the (recent) flood waters."

When it comes to farmland, the Vermillion River flooding carries one advantage compared to other

systems, Gillispie said.

"The Vermillion goes up and down a little faster. It's not one of these times where the water gets in there for weeks and kills everything," he said. "Now, you have to watch and see how much more additional rain we get over the course of the next four to five days."

The NWS can't easily predict if or where a storm will drop vastly different amounts of rainfall, Gillispie said.

"These kinds of systems, you can't really pinpoint the areas," he said. "We don't know why one area has five inches of rain, and 10 miles away, someone has two inches. We have a lot of reports

coming in for rainfall, and we're adjusting our models."

One thing is for certain, Gillispie said. This time of year brings quickly changing weather, and another batch of storms appears brewing on the horizon.

"These are intense weather months, and we are looking at Round 3 coming in," he said.

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BREWING UP A STORM

The flooding follows a week of tumultuous weather, climaxed by the Friday morning storm passing through the region.

The NWS reported straight-line winds reaching 90-100 mph during Friday's storm. Microbursts created more intense action in the Mission Hill, Volin and Wakonda areas. The storm continued moving through the Vermillion and North Sioux City areas.

The system worked its way east-southeast, said NWS meteorologist Brad Temeyer.

"This storm started out toward Aurora County, and then it worked itself through Davison County. It grew once it got east of Mitchell," he said. "It expanded north and south, from Hanson (County) into Hutchinson (County) and then into Yankton County. It continued to work east and continued to grow."

The NWS reported wind gusts of 34 mph at Geddes, 43 mph at Parkston, 36 mph at Menno and 43 mph at Beresford.

The storm didn't appear to be a tornado, Temeyer said. Instead, the system apparently combined

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