



Prolonged Heavy Rain This Week

Flooding and River Flooding Increasingly Possible

Key Messages

- Multiple rounds of heavy rain across the state this week.
- 2-4" of rain is likely with locally higher amounts of up to 6" possible.
- **A Flood Watch** is in effect from this evening through late Thursday night.
- Additional rain lingers in southern Iowa into Thursday night.

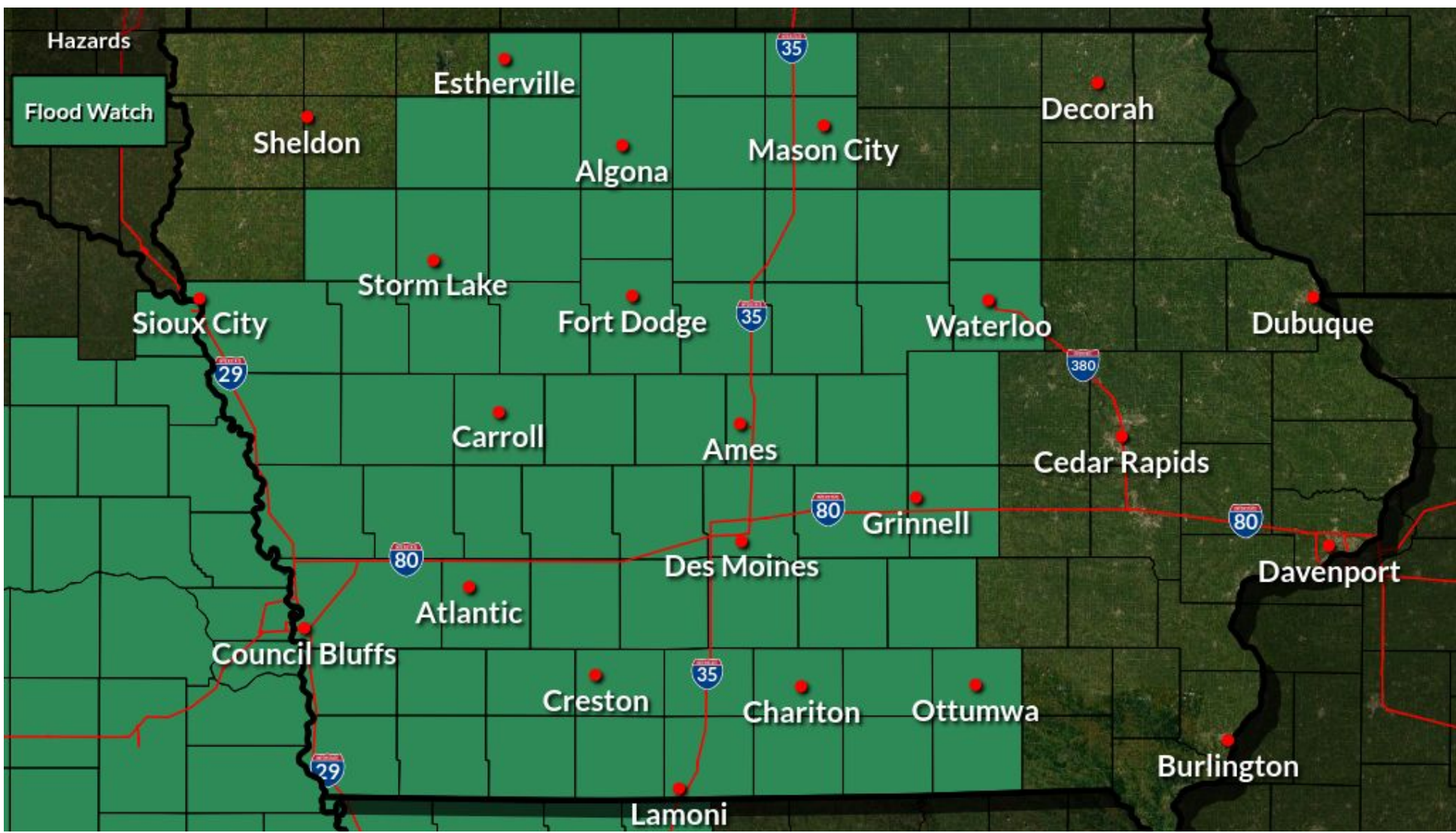
NEW

What Has Changed

- **Flood Watch** expanded southeast
- **Excessive Rain Outlook** upgraded to Moderate (level 3 out of 4) for Wednesday

Next Scheduled Update

- Tuesday by 5 PM



Flood Watch Through 1 AM Friday



Excessive Rain Risk

September 29, 2026
3:39 PM

Overview

- Heavy rain will occur tonight with another round again on Wednesday night.
- Many areas will receive 2 to 4" of total rainfall with locally higher amounts possible up to 6".
- Area streams & rivers are already running high & could flood with more heavy rain.
- Flooding concerns will increase with each round of rain.
- **Should you encounter flooding, turn around, don't drown!**

HIGHEST LOCAL RISK



WHAT THIS MEANS:
NUMEROUS flash
floods *likely*

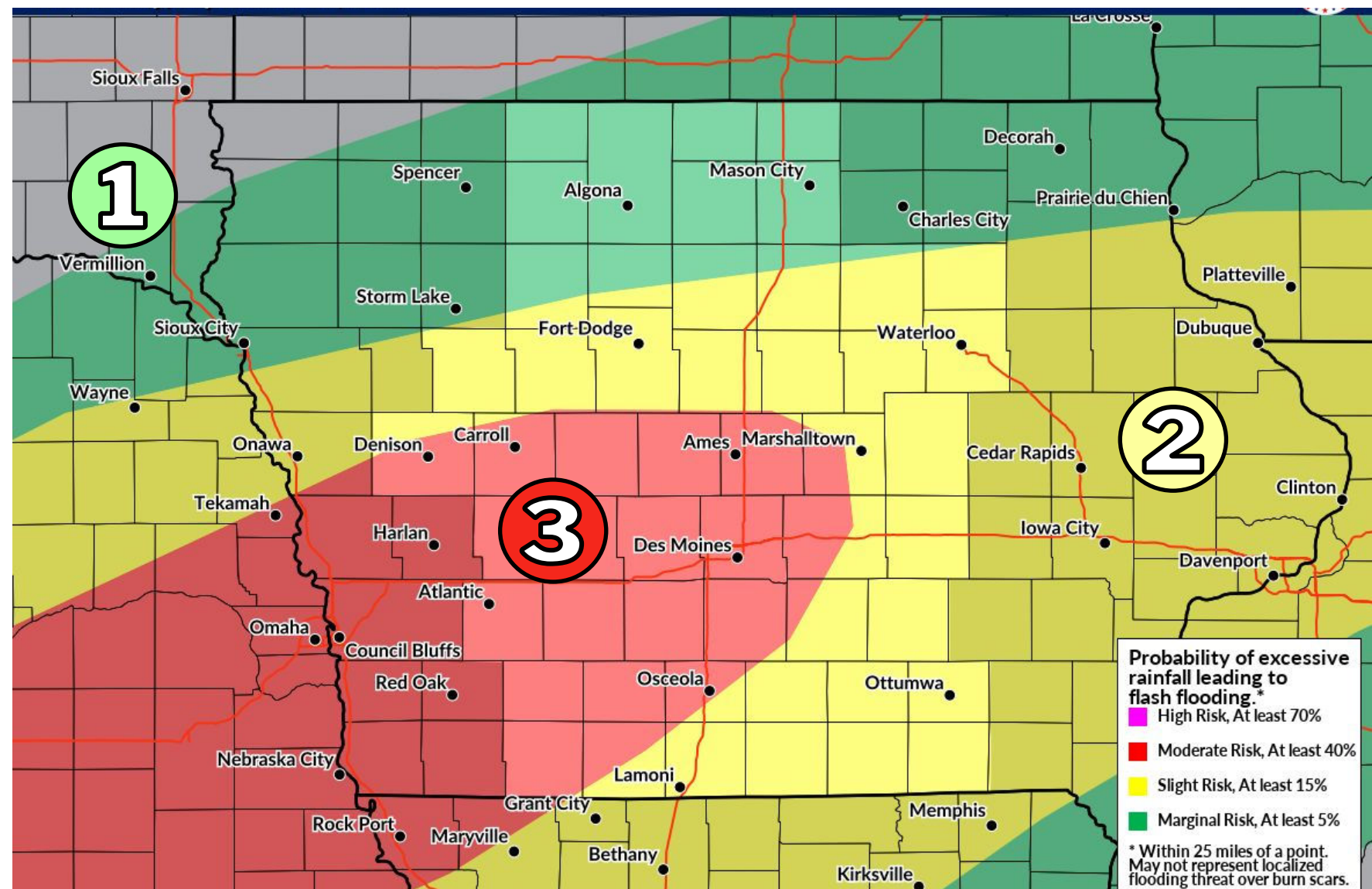
PRIMARY THREATS



RAINFALL
UP TO 6"



RIVER AND STREAM
FLOODING



Excessive Rainfall Risk: NONE      **HIGH**



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

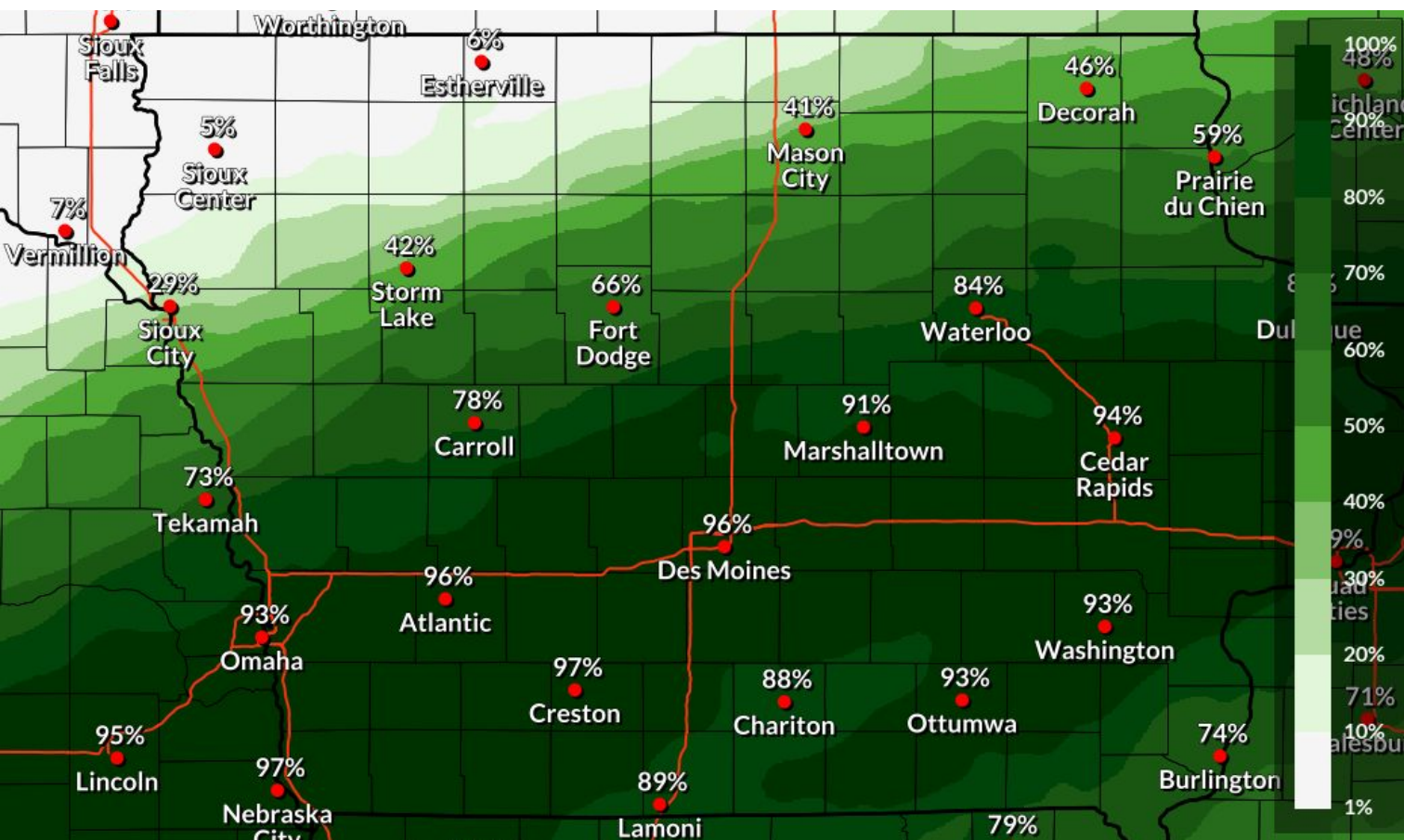
National Weather Service
Des Moines, Iowa



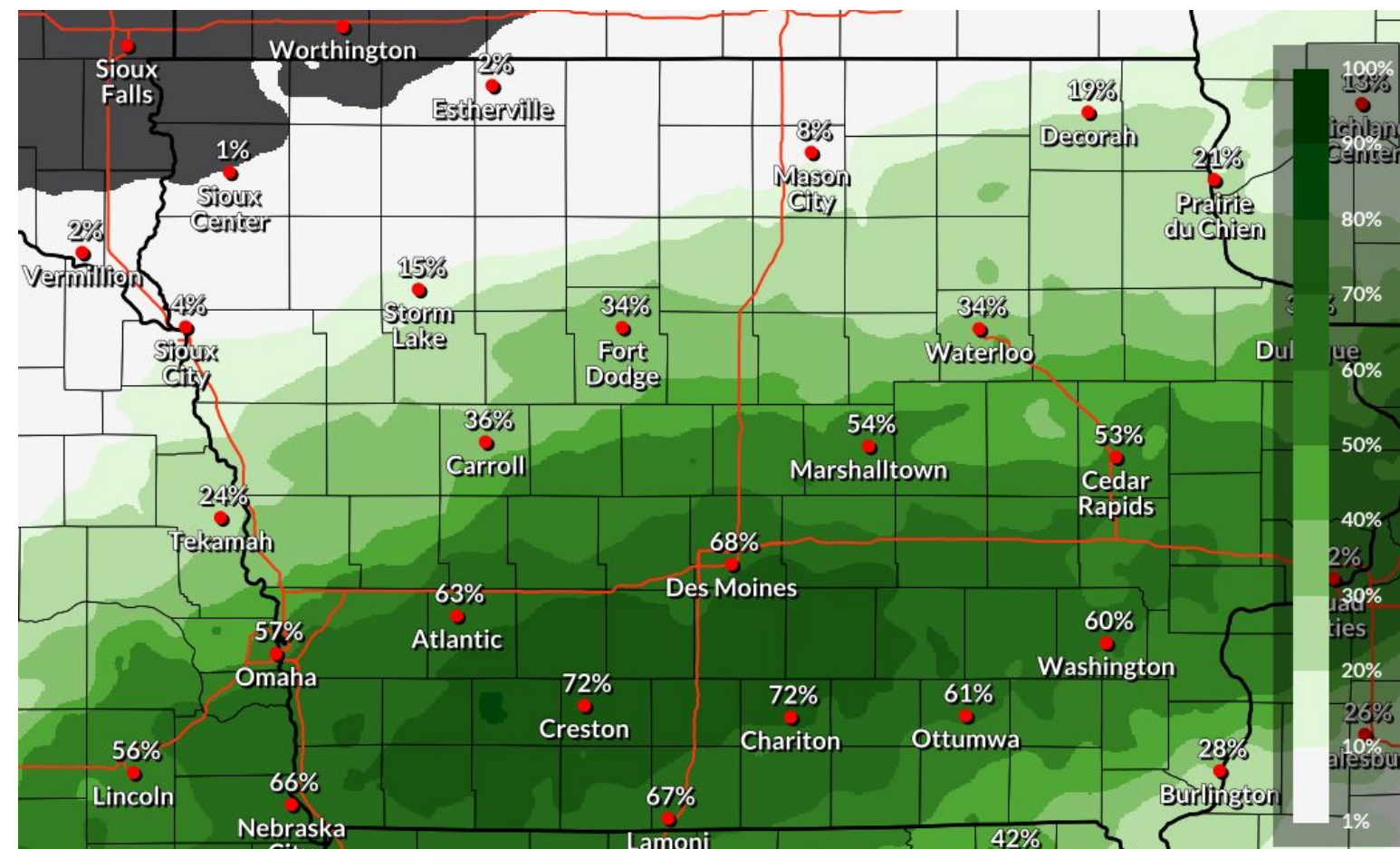
Rainfall Amount Probabilities

September 29, 2026
3:39 PM

Chance of at least 2"



Chance of at least 4"



The best chance for the highest rainfall amounts has expanded across central and southern Iowa. Locally higher amounts up to 6" are possible.



WHAT WE KNOW



- ✓ Record or near record amounts of moisture for this time of year!
- ✓ High confidence in several periods of heavy rainfall today through Thursday
- ✓ Widespread rainfall amounts of 2-4" with localized amounts of 5-6" possible!
- ✓ Increasing threat for minor to moderate river flooding, with major flooding possible.
- ✓ Very low threat for severe weather.

WHAT WE DON'T KNOW



- ✓ There is uncertainty in the exact location and amounts of heaviest rainfall.
- ✓ Recent trends have pushed the heaviest axis over central and southern Iowa, but this could still change.
- ✓ Uncertainty exists in the expected flood category at specific locations

Preparing for Flooding

The amount of rain forecast through Thursday could lead to flooding. Here is how you can prepare for flooding.

- Ensure downspouts and storm drains are clear of leaves and other debris.
- If you have a sump pump, make sure it is operating properly.
- If you are at a risk of flooding, have a plan.
- Check river levels at weather.gov/dmx/water



NWS Des Moines

09/29/2026 3:39 PM

weather.gov/dmx @NWSDes Moines



Hydrologic Ensemble Forecast System (HEFS)

- Shown during today's briefing; uses 10 days of forecast rain in its forecasts:
weather.gov/desmoines/hefs

NWS Des Moines Hydro Decision Support

- Links to various observed and forecast rainfall, as well as river forecast services:
weather.gov/desmoines/dsshydro

National Water Prediction Service (NWPS)

- Shows current river levels, but uses only 24 hours of forecast rain in its forecasts:
weather.gov/desmoines/water