

PRESS RELEASE

City of Burlington, North Dakota

8:00 PM, Monday, June 20, 2011

At 5:00 pm today, the US Army Corps of Engineers released the anticipated operations plan for the dam at Lake Darling. The plan indicates releases of 9,000 cfs through Wednesday, June 22nd, increasing to 15,000 cfs by Thursday, June 23rd, 17,000 cfs by Friday, June 24th, and peaking at 18,700 cfs by next Monday, June 27th. The operations plan indicates that this peak discharge will be maintained until July 2nd, when the discharges will begin stepping downward.

Beginning last evening, the City of Burlington, in cooperation with the US Army Corps of Engineers, began raising levees in and around the City of Burlington to prepare for flows of 11,000 cfs, based on the information released by the Corps yesterday. This afternoon, the City began taking steps to prepare the levees for flows of 15,000 cfs, based on the information released by the Corps at 1:00 pm. It is the City's intent to complete the construction of this level of protection in and around the City of Burlington. The City will keep working to raise the level of protection around the City until it is no longer safe to do so.

However, the upcoming weather forecasts combined with the short time frame allowed for the construction of any levee raises around the City of Burlington places far too great of risk to the lives of the residents of the City. Today, Governor Jack Dalrymple granted authorization to the City of Burlington to implement mandatory evacuations for portions of the City. Generally, the mandatory evacuation area will be all properties lying north and east of Davis Street, and north and east of Parkside Drive. The mandatory evacuation will be enforced beginning at 6:00 pm, Wednesday, June 22nd.

Additionally, the City of Burlington is recommending that properties lying north and east of Johnson Street, between Johnson Street and the mandatory evacuation area, evacuate on a voluntary basis. This area has been identified as "at-risk" due to the high potential for groundwater infiltration and backups of the sanitary sewer system.

All residents in the City of Burlington are advised to plug the sanitary sewers in the lowest level of their homes to prevent backups.

It should be noted that if a breach takes place, power, communications and other essential services will be disrupted.

Temporary shelters have been activated around the impacted areas. Displaced residents who need a shelter are asked to call the Ward County Emergency Operations Center at 858-9366.

Copies of current press releases and Burlington evacuation zones are available online at www.burlingtonflood.com.

As indicated by the constant changes in the operating plan for this emergency, this is a very dynamic situation. As updates become available, they will be posted to www.burlingtonflood.com.