In mid-March 2019, the Midwestern United States experienced severe flooding, primarily along the Missouri River.\textsuperscript{1} After record snowfall in the late winter, quickly rising temperatures, heavy rainfall, and the frozen ground culminated to produce urgent flooding situations.\textsuperscript{2} More than 10 million people in the Midwest and Great plains were under flood warnings, and major disaster declarations were issued for Nebraska and Iowa.\textsuperscript{3,4} Missouri, Kansas, Wisconsin, Ohio, South Dakota and tribal nations in Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota were also affected and declared states of emergencies.\textsuperscript{3} Bridges, roads, buildings, and other critical infrastructure like levees were damaged and destroyed, necessitating hundreds of millions of dollars for repair.\textsuperscript{5} Agriculture has also been greatly impacted; in Nebraska, the Farm Bureau estimated $400 million in crop losses and about $500 million in livestock losses.\textsuperscript{6}

**Tips**

Remember to stay away from damaged areas and avoid floodwaters, which may be contaminated with oil, gasoline or sewage. Residents should also be wary of the continuing possibility of flash flooding. For information about flood safety please see http://www.ready.gov/floods. In the event of a flood:

- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.

- Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground, when water is not moving or not more than a few inches deep. You and the

\textsuperscript{1} Dillon, Karen. *Update 5-Record Floods Inundate U.S. Midwestern States as Pence Arrives*. Retrieved June 14th, 2019

\textsuperscript{2} Hassan, Adeel (18 March 2019). "Why Is There Flooding in Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa and Wisconsin?" – via NYTimes.com

\textsuperscript{3} Congressional Research Service (March 26th, 2019) *2019 Midwest Flooding: FEMA and Other Federal Programs and Resources*. Retrieved June 17th, 2019

\textsuperscript{4} Johnson, Alex and Burke, Minyvonne (18 March, 2019). *More than 10 Million People Remain Under Flood Warnings as Midwest Braces for more Rain*


vehicle can be swept away quickly. If your vehicle is trapped in rapidly moving water, stay in the vehicle. If the water is rising inside the vehicle, seek refuge on the roof.

- Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams, rivers or creeks, particularly during threatening conditions.

### Resources

**Apply for FEMA Assistance** by registering online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov).

**FEMA Disaster Assistance Helpline** answers questions about the help offered by FEMA, how to apply for assistance, or the information in your account.

Toll-free helpline: 1-800-621-FEMA (3362)
For hearing impaired callers only:
1-800-462-7585 (TTY)
1-800-621-3362 (Video Relay Service)

Operators are multilingual and calls are answered seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. ET

**American Red Cross Disaster Service**: For referrals and updates on Red Cross shelter services in your area, locate a local Red Cross office through: [http://www.redcross.org/find-help](http://www.redcross.org/find-help) or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

The Red Cross helps disaster victims by providing safe shelter, hot meals, essential relief supplies, emotional support and health services like first aid. Trained Red Cross workers often meet one-on-one with families to develop individual plans and identify available resources to help aid recovery.

**For a list of federal aid programs offering assistance after the Midwest floodings go to:** [https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IN/IN11084](https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IN/IN11084)

### State Agencies

**Nebraska**

Nebraska Investment Finance Authority
1230 “O” Street, Suite 200
Lincoln, NE 68508-1402
(402)- 434-3900
1-800-204-NIFA (6432)
[www.nifa.org](http://www.nifa.org)
Iowa
Iowa Finance Authority
1963 Bell Ave., Suite 200
Des Moines, Iowa 50315
515.725.4900
800.432.7230
515.725.4901 (fax)
http://www.iowafinanceauthority.gov/Home/ContactUs

Missouri
Missouri Housing Development Commission
505 N. 7th Street
20th Floor, Suite 2000
St. Louis, MO 63101
(314) 877-1350
http://www.mhdc.com/contact_us/index.htm

Kansas
Kansas Housing Resources Corporation
611 South Kansas Avenue, Suite 300
Topeka, KS 66603-3803
Voice: 785-217-2001
Fax: 785-232-8084
http://www.kshousingcorp.org/Contact-Us.aspx

Wisconsin
Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority
201 W. Washington Ave. Suite 700
Madison, WI 53703
Tel: 608-266-7884
Fax: 608-267-1099
Toll Free: 1-800-334-6873
https://www.wheda.com/

Ohio
The Ohio Housing Finance Agency
57 E. Main St.
Columbus, Ohio 43215
http://www.ohiohome.org/

South Dakota
South Dakota Housing Development Authority
3060 East Elizabeth Street, P.O. Box 1237
Pierre, SD 57501
Tel: 605-773-3181
Additional Resources:

Housing and Urban Development

HUD provides a variety of disaster resources listed below. They partner with Federal and state agencies to help implement disaster recovery assistance. For a list of their resources, please click here:

https://www.hud.gov/info/disasterresources

USDA Rural Development

Regional USDA Rural Development offices administer programs to promote decent affordable housing to for low-income individuals. For a list of individual state offices, please click here:

https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices