



Press Release - 5

For Immediate Release

Date: February 9, 2021

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Time: 4:00 p.m.

St. Clair County Coastal Community Flooding – Update

In a briefing held this morning, the United States Army Corp of Engineers indicated water levels in Algonac remain static over the past 24 hours. Water levels in St. Clair have remained at the minor flooding stage. Port Huron and Fort Gratiot have experienced a slight decline in gage levels. The slow and small rise downstream and slow decline upstream is optimistic, but not indicative of major relief. The confirmed (via Coast Guard photo) formation of an ice bridge may be preventing the flow of ice into the St. Clair River. Gauge data and Coast Guard reports indicate two blockages remain in place. As ice breaking operations continue, the potential remains for ice to move downstream and create additional blockages. Ice cover in Lake Huron is increasing due to the colder temperatures and remains mostly attached to the shore.

The local roads and streets in Algonac are clear and the sewage treatment plant is operating nominally. Clay Township indicated that Champion Ferry is still operational to and from Harsens Island without issues. East China Township indicated water level fluctuations with some continued flooding of streets. Their sanitary sewers and sewage treatment plant is operating nominally.

The United States and Canadian Coast Guard Cutter operations are continuing. The Morro Bay and Biscayne Bay are currently operating in the area. The Samuel Risely has replenished supplies and freshwater. It will be operating Tuesday afternoon and escorting up-bound commercial traffic. The Griffon will re-join the ice breaking task force this afternoon. The Detroit Sector of the US Coast Guard has requested additional resources from the 9th District US Coast Guard.

St. Clair County Homeland Security and Emergency Management continue to operate the Emergency Operations Center, support local communities and coordinate with State, Federal and International partners. Fifteen (15) self-assessment damage reports have been received to date. Emergency Management continues to provide updates to the media and manage residents' phone calls. A virtual Town Hall meeting will be held for East China Township residents on Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Meeting details will be provided prior to the Town Hall.

Citizens, who have not already done so, continue to be encouraged to utilize the online self-reporting survey to catalogue and report damage to their property. Photos may also be included. Links to the survey can be found on both Facebook and our webpage at:

<https://www.facebook.com/BeReadyStClairCounty> or
<https://www.bereadystclaircounty.org>

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