

Minor flooding expected along the Rock River

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Minor flooding problems are expected this week along the Rock River south of Janesville and on Lake Koshkonong.

The Rock County Sheriff's Office warned motorists to avoid crossing high waters on roads and asked they report any immediate hazardous conditions to Rock County Communications at 608-757-2244.

Requests for sandbags and other concerns related to the current flood situation should be reported to town governments or the Rock County Sheriff's Office Emergency Management Bureau at 608-758-8440.

Officials "will continue to monitor the flooding conditions and announce sandbag staging locations later today (Monday) as needed," the release states.

The river gauge at Afton showed 8.6 feet and rising Monday morning. The National Weather Service predicts the level will rise to 10.1 feet by Friday and stay there at least through Sunday.

The weather service designates 9 feet through 11.1 feet at Afton as a minor flooding stage. During this stage, floodwaters are expected to affect a home on South Christian Road on the east side of the river in the Afton area, and minor erosional flood damage occurs to lowland and agricultural land along the river in the Afton and Janesville areas.

The gauge on Lake Koshkonong is expected to rise to 10 feet by today, which is minor flood stage, and rise to 10.7 feet by Friday before dropping Sunday.

At 10 feet, floodwaters affect homes and boat docks in the Blackhawk Island area on the north side of the lake, and water spreads over low spots on Blackhawk Island Road where the Rock River enters the lake.

At 10.5 feet, floodwaters reach Oxbow Bend Road on the east side of the lake.

The river's rise prompted the sheriff's office to invoke the slow/no-wake boating ordinance for a portion of the river south of the Beloit-Rock Townline Road Bridge. Other portions of the river were already under the speed restriction.

Boating speeds along the entire length of the river in Rock County are now restricted.

Deputies were ordered to add slow/no-wake signs along the river at all public access points between the bridge and the state line.

Lake Koshkonong is exempt from the slow/no-wake restriction, according to a sheriff's office news release.