



# Heavy rainfall causes dangerous flooding, road closures, West Alton evacuation

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**ALTON** - Between periods of severe thunderstorms, non-stop and heavy precipitation and constantly fluctuating temperatures, the past few days have wreaked havoc on the River Bend.

As rainfall totals creep up to the area's historic highs, several municipalities have been forced to take some measures to ensure their residents' safety as flood waters accumulate in fields, creeks and streams.

**Alton Police Department** reached out to its over 10,000 followers on **Facebook** this **Saturday** evening to spread the word about how dangerous this flooding and heavy rainfall may be.

“If the rain continues as is forecasted, please give yourself extra time to travel places,” the police department's post said. “It takes longer to stop on wet pavement and hydroplaning is a real threat with standing water. We want all of our citizens to arrive safely at their destinations, so please do your part to keep yourself safe on the road.”



A small mudslide also occurred Saturday evening on **Alby Street** near the **Alby Quarry**.

Around noon on Sunday, the **Mayor of West Alton** and the **Rivers Pointe Fire Protection District's Fire Chief** had announced on their social media account alerting

residents that the entirety of West Alton's city limits are under an immediate evacuation order. In the post, the district notes that the flood level predictions are at approximately **38.9 feet**, which is **4 feet and 9 inches** above the levee's protection limits.

The **Wood River Drainage and Levee District** announced **Sunday** that they have closed the floodgates located on **Powder Mill Road** in **East Alton** due to the rising waters of **Wood River Creek**. Travellers are encouraged to seek alternate routes into that part of the city and should add extra time to their commutes.

**Bethalto** city workers have also placed road blocks on **Culp Lane** near **Stadium Drive** due to flooding from area fields, pouring over the road to **Steve Bryant Community Park**. Various pumping stations have been placed in the manholes along **West Corbin Street** in an attempt to deter flooding due to drainage issues around the city from occurring.

If the predicted rainfall calculations are correct, flooding of the **Mississippi River** are expected to crest at 38.9 feet on upcoming **Thursday**.

According to the **National Weather Service's Areal Flood Warning**, which will last until **3:00 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 28**, an additional two to three inches of rainfall should be expected overnight into the morning with localized amounts of over four inches possible.

*If you have any flooding photos, please send them to us at [news@riverbender.com](mailto:news@riverbender.com) or share them with us on our [Facebook](#) page.*