



# Officials Remind Public to Check Sources for Credible Flooding Information

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WOOD RIVER — The public is being reminded to check official agencies social media pages for accurate information about flood dangers and information.

“We’ve been on rumor control for people posting information that is incorrect,” Madison County Emergency Management Agency Deputy Director Mary Kate Brown said.

Brown said that earlier this week a woman posted information about a levee failure near Granite City and by the time EMA learned about it, the post was shared 900 times.

“There are NO issues with the levees in Madison County at this time,” Brown said.

She said the false rumor was starting to cause panic among area residents and the Madison County EMA Facebook page became inundated with messages. EMA contacted the woman and she took down her post.

“The public should check official agencies social media for the most accurate information,” she said.

She said this past week the county’s EMA page received at least 1,000 new likes. She said due to the numerous “rumors” on social media there would likely be more people monitoring information online.

During the past weekend, Brown said she contacted the news media after they wrongfully reported information.

“The last thing we want to do is panic people,” she said.

Madison County EMA held a briefing Wednesday with community stakeholders so everyone could be kept up-to-date with what’s going on. She informed the nearly two dozen officials from law enforcement, fire department, Madison County Health Department, Madison County 911, Wood River Drainage and Levee District, Metro East Sanitary District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Illinois National Guard and the National Weather Service.

EMA Logistics Coordinator Tony Falconio said they’ve asked for more National Guard assistance in helping monitor the floodwall in downtown Alton as well as the levees.

“Again we are reminding people to stay off the levees,” Falconio said.

Hartford Mayor Jim Hickerson said the safest place for sightseers to see the floodwaters is the Lewis and Clark Confluence Tower on Illinois Route 3.

“We’ve got plenty of parking and it keeps people off the levees,” Hickerson said.

The tower is open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For admission costs visit [www.confluencetower.com](http://www.confluencetower.com).

Kevin Deitsch, warning coordination meteorologist with the National Weather Service, said with the breach in the Nutwood Levee at Hardin the crest in Alton will likely be a ½-foot lower than originally expected. He also said the prediction for rain has also changed.

“We are now expecting it more to the south and east of us,” Deitsch said.

Deitsch said they originally predicted 6 inches of rain and it now appears there will be between 1 and 2 inches during the next several days. The 6 to 10 day outlook will be drier than normal, he said.

“This is all good news,” he said.

Everyone agreed.

Madison County Chairman Kurt Prenzler said the briefings are well organized and it keeps all stakeholders informed.

“Everyone gets a chance to share what’s going on in their area and ask questions,” Prenzler said.