
News Release

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New Record Stage Set for James River near Stratford

The stage of the James River near Stratford (USGS streamgage 06472000) peaked on Monday, March 29, at 20.08 feet, setting a new record stage for this site according to real-time data collected by the U.S. Geological Survey. The previous record was 19.98 feet was on April 26, 2009. The current stage of the James River at Stratford is about six feet above the National Weather Service flood stage of 14 feet.

The 2010 stage of the James River near Stratford exceeded even the 1997 stage of 19.48 feet. For many streamgages in eastern South Dakota, the highest recorded stages occurred in 1997, but for the upper James River, many new stage records had been set in 2009.

“Stages for many of the USGS streamgages in eastern South Dakota are still at or above flood stage, but most are starting to decline,” said Joyce Williamson, USGS hydrologist. “Graphs are available that compare current water levels to previous peak stages including those that occurred in 1997, 2001, and 2009.”

A flood watch web page to help track the current flooding conditions in South Dakota can be accessed at <http://sd.water.usgs.gov/projects/2010flooding/>.

The [South Dakota Flood Watch](#) web page shows locations of streamgages where the water level is above flood stage or at high flow and provides flood tracking charts and tables of recent and previous flood peak flows.

Links to additional information about floods, including flood safety, also are provided.

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