

Floods stun southern Iowa



DOUG WELLS/THE REGISTER

The Iowa Highway 14 bridge north of Corydon in Wayne County is cut off in three places by water.



GARY MILLER/THE REGISTER

Jessica Danner, 11, and brother Joel, 9, of Derby had a day off because of flooding at school.

As much as 16" of rain reported

Five counties are hit hard as the storm blocks highways and zaps communication.

By **CYNTHIA HUBERT**
REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Torrential rains created havoc Tuesday in parts of southern Iowa: flooding roads, washing out bridges, drowning crops and isolating entire communities for a time.

No deaths or serious injuries were attributed to the flooding.

"This is Iowa, but it's definitely not heaven out there today," said Bev Kaiser, training bureau chief for the state Department of Disaster Services.

That was especially true for the residents of Lucas, Decatur, Wayne, Union and Clarke counties, which took the brunt of the late-summer storm.

11.5 Inches in Derby

Between 6 inches and 10 inches of rain fell in some parts of those counties, and several communities were unofficially deluged with a foot or more of water. The highest official reading was in Derby, where 11.5 inches fell.

State Climatologist Harry Hillaker said it has been 24 years since so much rain has fallen in one spot in Iowa in a single day.

Sixteen inches of rain was reported in Van Wert on Tuesday, but that reading was unofficial. The unofficial state record is 21.7 inches at Boyden in Sioux County on Sept. 18, 1926.

Residents of the deluged areas were stunned.

"We have never had this kind of rain," said Bernice Throckmorton of Derby, whose basement was flooded Tuesday morning with more than 4 feet of water. Road and bridge closings virtually blocked off the Lucas

INSIDE

■ Nightmarish scenes from the storm that swamped the southern part of the state.

■ Agriculture officials fear for the crops now under water.

■ More photos, plus lists of closed roads, record rainfalls.

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County town for much of the day, and Throckmorton and many of her neighbors were without electricity.

Transportation became a challenge early in the day across southeast and south-central Iowa, as rising water turned roads and bridges into lakes.

I-35, Roads Blocked

Portions of Interstate Highway 35 and U.S. Highways 69, 65 and 34 were closed, as were numerous state and county roads. Dozens of bridges were reported washed out and school was called off in many communities. At least six people had to be rescued because of rising waters, and isolated cases of livestock drownings were reported, officials said.

The morning eastbound Amtrak train from Denver to Chicago that normally runs across southern Iowa was diverted at Omaha to a more northerly route, according to the Associated Press, and a Burlington Northern railroad official in Creston said two freight trains were stopped by high water east of Osceola.

At Lucas in Lucas County, empty rail cars were swept off a track and toppled onto their sides.

Grand River Flooding

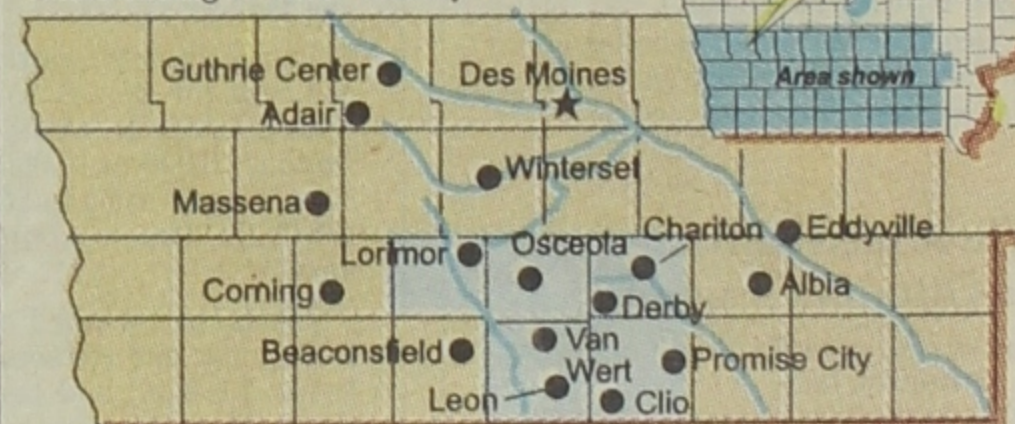
In Decatur County, Davis City Fire Chief James DeLong said the Grand River rose 16 inches in one hour Tuesday afternoon.

"When you've got 7-foot-tall corn

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IOWA DELUGE

GOV. TERRY BRANSTAD issued emergency proclamations for five counties after as much as 16 inches of rain fell over parts of Iowa in the 24 hours ending at 7 a.m. Tuesday.



Van Wert *	16.00 in.	Massena	6.45 in.
Derby	11.50	Eddyville	6.28
Osceola	8.80	Guthrie Center	5.84
Promise City	8.80	Adair	5.42
Lorimor	8.60	Clio	5.20
Beaconsfield	7.00	Winterset	4.99
Chariton	6.95	Albia	4.61
Leon	6.64	Corning	4.50

*Unofficial reading
SOURCE: National Weather Service