

Flood Potential for Spring 2011



City Reminder: Floodplain properties should purchase flood insurance

In December, the National Weather Service issued its latest flood forecast for many rivers in Minnesota, including the South Fork of the Crow River. The forecast for Delano identifies a significant chance of reaching the major flooding stage sometime this coming spring. Many recall the Spring of 2010, where the river swelled to its third highest level since the National Weather Service began recording data in the early 1960s. While this level was still over three feet lower than the historic 1965 flood, it served as a reminder that the residents and business owners of Delano must always be prepared.

The chart below shows the current forecast, and is available on the National Weather Service website (see URL in the lower right portion of this page or visit www.delano.mn.us for the link). The forecast charts and current river levels are displayed in real time. During the spring season, bookmark this page for reference.

The City of Delano is currently in flood preparation mode, preparing equipment and securing bids for materials. In the event volunteers or other resources are needed, the City will solicit assistance when it is necessary. While the City has an extensive response and in past years has been blessed with excellent volunteer turnout, property owners always need to be prepared that flood prevention can fail.

This winter, the City wants to remind its property owners in or near the floodplain to purchase flood insurance. In recent years, federal assistance for private property owner losses in natural disasters has lessened, and in many cases, is no longer available. Just last September, with major flooding in southeast Minnesota, many property owners without flood insurance were left with nothing after water receded. Many insurers require a 30-day advance purchase of flood insurance. If you're located in a floodplain, please consider purchasing.

