



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# EcoNewsWire

## Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 28, 2018

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## Interactive online story map explores Iowa's historic 2008 floods

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DES MOINES — As Mother Nature seems to be reminding us lately, this summer marks the 10th anniversary of the historic 2008 floods in Iowa. An interactive online story map from the Iowa DNR helps tell the tale of the devastation, as well as steps needed to prevent damage from future floods.

The Floods of 2008 – Insights from a Decade of Floodplain Stewardship starts with the basics of how and why floods occur, and takes users along the timeline of 2008 flood events, capping off with ongoing work to prevent damage from floods.

The 2008 floods caused more than \$1 billion in damages, and 85 of Iowa's 99 counties were declared disaster areas at the federal level. While flooding is natural and will always occur, Iowa's history of frequent flooding shows how devastating it can be.

The interactive story map delves into the characteristics of a floodplain as well as the work done by the DNR and other agencies in the last 10 years to assist Iowans.

Explore the map at <https://arcg.is/1rmffT>.

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## Protect sensitive people from heavy fireworks smoke

**MEDIA CONTACT: Brian Hutchins at 515-725-9550 or [Brian.Hutchins@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Brian.Hutchins@dnr.iowa.gov).**

WINDSOR HEIGHTS – Whether attending a spectacular Fourth of July celebration or a picnic with backyard fireworks, the aftermath of drifting smoke can cause breathing problems for some. If the air is stagnant, fine particles can be trapped near the ground and build to unhealthy levels.

“If your family or friends suffer from asthma or respiratory difficulties, it’s important for them to stay upwind, a safe distance from fireworks smoke,” says Brian Hutchins, DNR air quality supervisor. “The elderly and children are also vulnerable to higher levels of smoke.”

Smoke contains fine particles and gases, which can be hard on the lungs. Fine particles in fireworks’ smoke are produced from black powder used to shoot fireworks skyward along with the metals that produce brilliant colors.

Those unable to avoid areas of dense smoke should limit outdoor activity and contact their health care provider if they experience difficulty breathing.

Last year, Fourth of July fireworks in Des Moines gave rise to levels of fine particles that exceeded national standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Learn more about [fine particles \(PM2.5\)](#) and how [fireworks displays](#) can affect sensitive populations.

Finally, play it safe and [dispose of your unused fireworks](#) safely.

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## **Air Quality permits under review**

**MEDIA CONTACT: Lori Hanson, DNR, at 515-725-9525 or [Lori.Hanson@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Lori.Hanson@dnr.iowa.gov) for Title V permits; or Sarah Piziali, DNR, at 515-725-9549 or [Sarah.Piziali@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Sarah.Piziali@dnr.iowa.gov) for construction permits.**

DES MOINES – The DNR Air Quality Bureau has the following draft permits up for review. The permits help protect Iowans’ health and the air where we live. DNR’s permitting staff review the applications to ensure facilities comply with state and federal air quality standards. The public has the right and is encouraged to comment on draft permits. DNR considers [public comments](#) before finalizing the permits. Submit comments in writing to the assigned permit writer before 4:30 p.m. on the last day of the public comment period.

### **Title V Operating Permits**

Title V Operating permits are reviewed and re-issued every five years. Facilities with a Title V permit have the potential to emit large amounts of air pollutants compared to other facilities. The five-year reviews are a federal requirement and ensure adequate monitoring is included in the permit. The DNR plans to issue Title V Operating Permits for the following facilities. Find permit details at [www.iowadnr.gov/titlev-draft](http://www.iowadnr.gov/titlev-draft).

### **Page County**

MidAmerican Energy Co. - Shenandoah Power Station located at 900 W. Ferguson, Shenandoah.

The application was submitted to operate their existing Electric Services facility. The public comment period ends July 28.

### **Construction Permits**

DNR engineers review and issue construction permits to facilities before they build new or modified sources of air pollution. The public may review the following air quality construction permits available online at [www.iowadnr.gov/airpermitsearch](http://www.iowadnr.gov/airpermitsearch).

### **Clinton County**

Guardian Industries – 300 S. Fifth Ave. E., DeWitt.

Project Number 18-203, Permit language modifications. Public comment period ends July 29.