



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Iowa DNR News

Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Heavy rainfall causes multiple wastewater and manure releases

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SPENCER -- Following heavy rainfall and flash flooding throughout much of Iowa, the DNR encourages Iowans to stay out of Iowa streams until after the waters recede.

While fast stream currents are the biggest risk for people, high waters can also carry dangerous debris and bacteria. "For their own safety, we encourage people to stay out of the water until several days after streams return to normal," said Scott Wilson in the DNR's Spencer field office.

"About 70 wastewater discharges have been reported over the Memorial Day weekend, and the calls are still coming in," Wilson said. With more rain predicted, additional discharges are expected.

"Some cities have reported multiple wastewater discharges, and two have reported storm water backups into basements," he added. Both the Iowa DNR and the Department of Public Health have helpful links for people [dealing with disasters](#) and [flood cleanup](#).

Some livestock facilities, particularly in northwest Iowa, have had two to four or more inches of rain. "Most of these facilities are OK, but we are working with a few to stop runoff," Wilson said.

Facilities that are discharging or expecting to discharge should contact their local DNR [field office](#). "We'll work with them to identify solutions and minimize impacts to nearby streams," Wilson said.

After hours, facilities can call the DNR emergency spill line at 515-725-8694. The DNR website has more information about [spill reporting requirements](#).