



Emergency Management Office

APRIL 14, 2026 1200  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**Wisconsin River Flooding Update In Columbia County**

The Wisconsin River is supposed to rise significantly over the next few days. The Wisconsin River is **currently 16.85 feet** at the Portage Gauge. The National Weather Service has updated their prediction, and the Wisconsin River is expected to rise to **major flood stage at 20.4 feet on Thursday, April 16, 2026**. People living in Blackhawk Park near Portage and any low-lying areas near the Wisconsin River need to take appropriate action, which may include relocating. If you hear this message and know of someone that lives in these areas, please contact them to make sure they are aware of the situation. Updates will follow as the water level changes.

Sandbags and sand are available to the public to fill at the Columbia County Highway Shop located at 338 West Old Highway 16, Wyocena, (southeast side of highway shop building in the parking lot). You will need to bring your own shovel to fill bags and a truck or trailer to haul them.

A limited number of sump pumps are available for citizen use through the Columbia County Emergency Management Office. Please contact Emergency Management to arrange for pick up.

People who live in low-lying areas or along the river are encouraged to take appropriate actions and to monitor the river levels for any changes. You can monitor the river levels by clicking on the following link to the National Weather Service Website River Gauge:  
<https://water.noaa.gov/gauges/PORW3>

**ROAD CLOSURES:** A listing of Columbia County Road Closures is located on our website at <http://www.co.columbia.wi.us> under “Public Interest”. This will be updated as impacted roads are closed. Please do not attempt to drive through standing water in roadways. If you come across a roadway that is covered with water that has not been closed/barricaded, please contact the Columbia County Sheriff’s Office Dispatch Center at 608-742-4166 extension 1, to report the location so appropriate action can be taken.

**TURN AROUND DON’T DROWN!** Do not attempt to drive through water on a roadway. As little as six inches of moving water can sweep a car off the road.

Local authorities will continue to monitor the situation and provide updated information as it becomes available.

Please contact Columbia County Emergency Management with any question, at 608-742-9890

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