



Saint Louis County

Administration • 100 North Fifth Avenue West, Room 202 • Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: (218) 726-2450 • Fax: (218) 726-2469 • www.stlouiscountymn.gov

Kevin Z. Gray
County Administrator

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release:

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CONTACT: Steve Steblay, Supervising Deputy
Homeland Security, Emergency Management, 911
(218) 336-4341 office • (218) 780-3248 cell

Sandbagging continues, County infrastructure in good condition following flooding

An estimated 10,000 to 15,000 sandbags are in place (with an additional 8,000 ready to go) in northern St. Louis County around properties near Lake Kabetogama, the Ash River Trail and Crane Lake, protecting resorts, cabins and other structures from high water. Sandbagging efforts began last Friday and continued through the weekend as heavy rains caused water levels to rise by more than a foot.

The St. Louis County Sheriff's Office continues to monitor the water levels and road conditions and have added extra patrols. There have been no injuries as a result of the flooding, no evacuations and no road closures. All county roads remain in good condition.

Meanwhile, the St. Louis County Public Works Department hauled six truckloads of sand to the area over the weekend, and coordinated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Duluth for sandbags. Volunteers from the St. Louis County Volunteer Rescue Squad, Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Park Service have teamed up with residents, resort owners and other community participants in the sandbagging.

"We are continuing to support sandbagging efforts to protect resorts and cabins," said Steve Steblay Supervising Deputy of Homeland Security, Emergency Management and 911 Communications for the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office. "It's believed that the water level has now crested, but with more rain in the forecast, we want to be prepared."

"We've seen tremendous effort from local residents, volunteers and township officials who have really stepped up to help, which is no surprise," said Kevin Gray, County Administrator. "We continue to remind visitors that northern St. Louis County resorts and businesses are accessible, safe and open for business. Based on what I saw when I toured the area yesterday, resort guests were having great success fishing and enjoying shore lunches!"

Property owners who have questions about damage can contact the County Assessor's Office in Virginia at (218) 749-7147 or Duluth at (218) 726-2304. Questions or concerns about septic systems should be directed to the Environmental Services Department at (218) 749-0625.

Anyone who encounters an unsafe road condition or other situation caused by the flooding should call 911.

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