

## *Summary of Lower Platte River Ice Report February 2, 2009 through February 6, 2009*

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*NEMA received a report from the Corps of Engineers in Omaha on the possibility of Ice Jam flooding this year. It looks like this may be the first time since 2001 that we will need to take mitigation measures.*

*The Corps reported that due to temps above freezing and a strong possibility of heavy rainfall there is an increased danger from ice jams this week-end. **NEMA is asking you to be alert to rapidly rising river stages during and after any precipitation and be prepared to evacuate people from low-lying areas should flooding occur.***

*NEMA is also asking you to observe the river early next week, so we know if, in the event of ice jams over the week-end, they have flowed through. We need to know if are looking at the possibility of some minor or medium ice jams re-freezing when the weather becomes cooler later this month and becoming very large jams when another break-up happens.*

### **Confluence of the Elkhorn/Platte River**

At Capehart Rd., 4 miles north of Highway 6 the character of intact ice cover shows a surface roughness of less than .5 feet. Ice has signs of decay in the form of melting ice. There are 10 ft cracks parallel and perpendicular in the ice and no sign of fracturing. In the Elkhorn there is an open channel by the west bank as far as the observer could see. In the Platte there is an open channel by the east bank downstream as far as the observer could see and a small channel by the west bank. Some ice has moved. Ice is 6-12" thick.

### **Elkhorn River**

At Highway 30 Bridge the character of ice shows a intact ice cover surface roughness of less than .5 feet. There is evidence of decay in the form of melting snow and ice. Cracking of 3 ft parallel and perpendicular in the ice is reported. There is a small open channel by the east bank downstream of the bridge. Water is topping the ice by the riverbanks.

At Highway 36 by Highway 36 Bridge the character of intact ice cover showed a roughness of less than .5 ft. There is evidence of decay in the form of melting ice. Ice has 10 ft parallel cracks with no evidence of fracturing. Some open water is topping the ice by the river banks. No open channels.

Highway 64 at Highway 64 Bridge the character of intact ice cover shows a surface roughness of less than .5 ft. There is evidence of decay in the form of melting ice. Cracking of 8 ft parallel and perpendicular in the ice is reported. With no evidence of fracturing. There is an open channel in the middle of the river and by the west bank as far as the observer could see.

At Highway 92 by Highway 92 Bridge, the character of intact ice cover showed a surface roughness of less than .5 ft. There is evidence of decay in the form of melting ice. Cracking of 2 ft parallel and perpendicular in the ice is reported. With total ice cover, no open water.

### **Platte River**

Around Big Island Southwest of Fremont, ice is pretty much all intact, with little non-moving water on top.

Highway 77 Bridge. Ice is mostly intact. Some fracturing in the center part of river is occurring with little to no snow on ice. On the North bank, there is a small mostly open channel 20-40 foot wide down to the railroad bridge. On the South side there is some "rotten" ice with water on top.

In the Woodcliff area, the ice is pretty much intact with a little open water.

Highway 64 bridge west of Valley is mostly ice covered. There is 20-40 foot open channel on the western edge of west channel.

Highway 92 Bridge site shows a surface roughness of less than .5 ft. with decay in the form of melting ice. No cracks or fracturing reported. East channel has a small stream of about 2 percent of the area. The west channel is about 20 percent open south of bridge. Forecasts call for mild weekend ahead. May be some breakup at that time.

3.1 miles north of Hwy 64 Bridge the Ice cover shows a surface roughness of less than .5ft. There is evidence of decay in the form of melting ice. Cracking of 8 ft parallel and perpendicular in the ice is reported. With no evidence of fracturing. Some water is on top of the ice in the middle of the river and by both river banks.

¼ mile north of Fairview Rd, 3 ½ miles upstream of NE Hwy 6 Bridge the character of intact Ice cover shows a roughness of less than .5 feet. There is evidence of decay in the form of melting ice. There is an open channel by the south bank that is 30-150 ' wide and other small open channels. Some ice had broken up and moved. The ice is 6"-12" thick.

At the Highway 50 near Highway 50 bridge there are two small channels above the bridge flowing into a channel at the bridge. The channel at the bridge is approx. 100 feet wide.

At Cedar Creek Dike location main channel was about 80 feet. There are also small channels.

At Highway 75 Bridge at Plattsmouth the channel is approx. 120 feet wide running along the left bank switching to the right bank below the bridge. There are cracks in the ice on the sandbars.