



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

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The U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Friday, September 28 has actualities on a flood report and highway safety.

First, a report by a Coast Guard spokesman in St. Louis on the flooding Missouri River.

"The Coast Guard has told its disaster control unit in St. Louis to keep a close eye on the rising Missouri River. In addition, two cutters, one here -- another in Leavenworth -- have been placed on two hour alert. They have been taken off of the normal aids-to-navigation patrols. Twelve flood relief 'punts' (boats) are ready to move at a moment's notice at Leavenworth, along with 4 seventeen foot patrol boats, of the Miami Surfer Class, and enough land vehicles to get flood teams where they are needed.

"All the activity has been caused by a stagnant frontal system parked over Eastern Kansas and Western Missouri for almost a week. Because of the associated heavy rain, the flood stage at Leavenworth this morning was 22' -- flood stage is 18 1/2'. They expect another foot by afternoon. At St. Charles this morning, the stage was 23'5" -- flood stage is 25'. The crest is expected Monday at 27'."

Next, highway engineers were urged to think safety in a speech today by a Federal Highway official at Belleville, Illinois. Deputy Administrator Ralph Bartelsmeyer commented:

"Safety, of course, has always been a prime consideration in the highway program, but our approach to it has been evolving. Today, we are much more concerned with the human factors; perhaps cars theoretically are not supposed to go off the roadway, but the fact is, they sometimes do, either because of vehicle or driver deficiency. And when they do, we want to give the occupants of the vehicle every opportunity for survival.

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"Let us try now to find ways of reducing needlessly high speeds on the highways, which will not only provide definite safety benefits but also will aid in the vital conservation of fuel. Let us try to find the key to preventing wrong-way driving on our freeways. Let us improve our signing so that drivers will have all the information they need in plenty of time to make crucial decisions. Let us develop improved methods of pavement marking, and of lighting. And let us constantly strive to engineer safer access and egress ramps."

This has been the Transportation News Report.

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