

Chicago Flash Floods Cause Travel Chaos

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— Categories: General News



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Chicago was hit by severe flash flooding on Friday as intense rain swept through the region, submerging streets and causing major travel disruptions. The National Weather Service (NWS) issued flash flood warnings for Cook and DuPage counties after 3 to 5 inches of rainfall were recorded in just a few hours.

Floodwaters inundated major roads, including sections of 47th Street, Drake Avenue, and Archer Avenue. Viaducts became impassable, and highways like Interstate 55 experienced

dangerous water buildup. Videos circulated online showing residents wading through knee-deep water in neighborhoods such as 58th Street and Harlem Avenue.

The NWS reported that rainfall rates exceeded two inches per hour in some parts of the city. A Flash Flood Warning remained in effect until 2:45 p.m., followed by a broader Flood Watch until 6 p.m. Officials urged residents near low-lying areas, drainage systems, and creeks to take immediate precautions.

While no tornadoes were confirmed, funnel clouds were reported in LaSalle County and southern Cook County. Authorities advised the public to remain alert for worsening conditions.

The storm disrupted air travel across Chicago. Midway Airport experienced flight delays of up to 45 minutes, while delays at O'Hare averaged approximately 25 minutes. Ground stops were implemented during peak thunderstorm activity, stranding travelers and causing further cancellations.

Local infrastructure also sustained damage. Electrical problems at the Southwest Pumping Station in Mount Greenwood led to reduced water pressure. In Darien, flooding impacted the local police department, damaging rooms containing important evidence and causing temporary outages.

Emergency responders were deployed across affected areas to perform water rescues and clear flooded buildings. In Pinewood Park, several vehicles were trapped in rising waters, though no injuries were reported.

The NWS warned that more storms could follow over the weekend. With saturated ground and ongoing rainfall, officials say the threat of further flooding remains high.

Residents are urged to monitor official weather updates and avoid unnecessary travel. As emergency crews continue recovery efforts, Chicago remains on alert for additional severe weather.