

## Heavy rains wallop northeastern Minnesota

*Flooding causes closures of more than a dozen roads*



The St. Louis River rages near the Hwy 210 Thomson Bridge southwest of Duluth. The Thomson Dam can be seen in the background. *Photo by Tom Lund*

Widespread heavy rain pelted several regions of Minnesota June 19-20, dropping 9 inches in the Duluth area alone and causing major flooding and washed out roads, while restricting air travel in and around Duluth as of Wednesday afternoon.

The Minnesota State Patrol and MnDOT District 1/Duluth crews closed more than a dozen roads at different locations in the district, including Interstate 35 in Duluth and between Carlton and Mahtowa, as well as portions of Hwy 2, Hwy 23, Hwy 33, Hwy 53, Hwy 61, Hwy 65, Hwy73, Hwy 200 and Hwy 210. Motorists were being advised on Wednesday not to travel in the area until conditions improve and MnDOT crews could make progress in recovering the roadways.

The flooding also caused the partial evacuation in the town of Thomson and in the Fond du Lac neighborhood of Duluth, as well as the closure of three state parks.

The governor declared a state of emergency in several counties in northeastern Minnesota as well as Dakota County in the southern Twin Cities Metro area and Rice and Goodhue counties in District 6/Rochester.

MnDOT Commissioner Tom Sorel and Public Safety Commissioner Mona Dohman were scheduled to accompany the governor to Duluth on Thursday, June 21. They will meet with city officials as well as with Sen. Amy Klobuchar and Congressman Chip Cravaack to determine how best to assist the community.

For more photos and coverage of the floods in and around Duluth, visit [MnDOT's Facebook page](#). For updated road information, call 511 or visit [www.511mn.org](http://www.511mn.org).



The St. Louis River flows under the Hwy 210 Thomson Bridge. *Photo by Tom Lund*