

Impact

Flood Level Facts and

1997 Flood Impact

- **Red River crested at 54.35 feet.** Earthen levees in place could protect to a level of 52 feet (49 feet for levee + 3 feet of freeboard)
- **Water rise was 1 inch/hour (2 feet/day)** during flooding
- **3.5 million sandbags** (17,500 tons of sand) plus 170,000 cubic yards of clay and 20,000 cubic yards of gravel used to fight the flood
- **90 percent** of Grand Forks' 52,500 residents evacuated; **all 9,000 East Grand Forks residents** evacuated
- **83 percent (9,001) of Grand Forks homes and 62 percent (751) of the city's commercial units** damaged
- **All 385 businesses in downtown Grand Forks** impacted (400,000 sq. ft of space)
- **11 historic buildings and 60 apartments** burned
- **No water for 13 days; no drinkable water for 23 days**
- **More than \$74 million damage to Grand Forks Public School District** (16 of 22 schools significantly damaged)
- **More than \$48 million damage to University of North Dakota** (72 state-owned buildings)
- **More than 20,000 volunteers** came to the community to help clean up and rebuild
- **60,000 tons of flood debris** hauled to landfill

Flood Level Facts

East Grand Forks, MN & Grand Forks, ND

Flood Categories (in feet)

Major Flood Stage: 46
Moderate Flood Stage: 40
Flood Stage: 28
Action Stage: 27

Historical Crests

1. **54.35 ft** on 04/22/1997
2. **50.20 ft** on 04/10/1897
3. **48.81 ft** on 04/26/1979
4. **48.00 ft** on 04/18/1882
5. **47.85 ft** on 04/06/2006
6. **45.93 ft** on 04/21/1996
7. **45.73 ft** on 04/11/1978
8. **45.69 ft** on 04/16/1969
9. **45.61 ft** on 05/12/1950
10. **45.55 ft** on 04/04/1966

