

Home / Eastern Iowa / Article

# New app uses artificial intelligence to give people real live flood data

By Ethan Fickau, KCRG-TV9 | Posted: Tue 6:42 PM, Dec 19, 2017



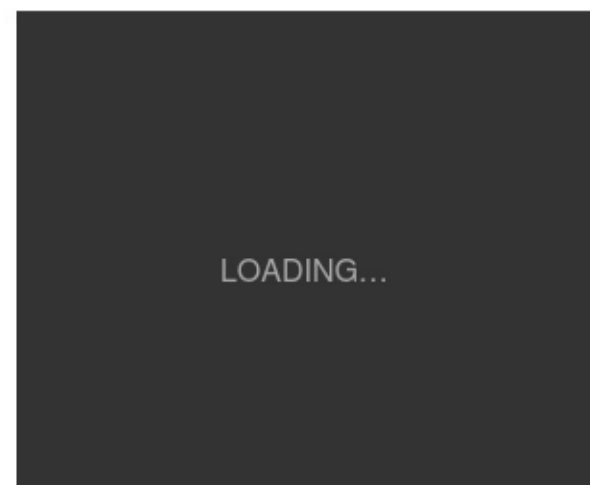
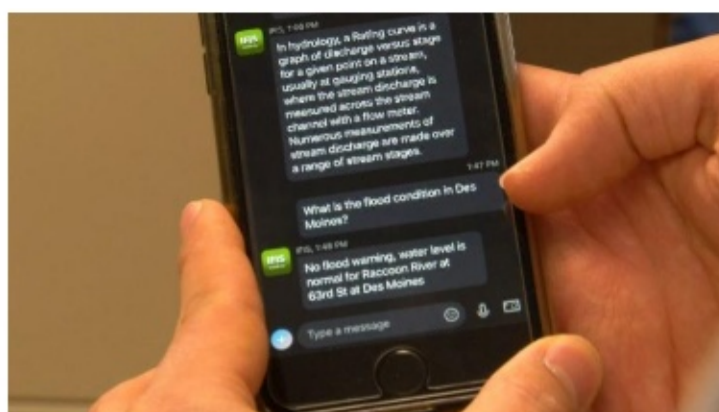
IOWA CITY, Iowa (KCRG-TV9) – Last year, we saw the impact data can have to prepare for and stop a flood.

Soon, an app will make put that flood information in the palm of your hand. A professor at the University of Iowa and his team are putting the finishing touches on Flood AI. The app works a bit like Siri where you can ask questions about rainfall totals, river levels, and lots more. People can ask how high the water will get, when it will crest and more.

Professor Ibrahim Demir recently got a grant from Microsoft to help develop the technology. He said right now, people have to sift through several sources to get real time flood data.

"The idea here is to create an artificial intelligence system, a virtual flood expert that can help anyone at anytime through any of these channels," said Ibrahim Demir, an assistant professor of engineering at the University of Iowa.

Flood AI is part of Microsoft's new initiative AI for Earth. Microsoft says it plans to invest 50 million dollars in the program over the next five years. The Flood AI app is expected to be available by March.



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