

No date set yet for re-opening of I-29

(KNZA)--A date has not been set yet for the re-opening of a portion of Interstate-29, north of St. Joseph, which has been closed since last month's devastating flooding.

Brown County Sheriff John Merchant said that's what the Missouri Department of Transportation told him Thursday morning.

Inspections have to be made, damaged assessed and repairs will have to take place before the highway is re-opened. Merchant said June or July is a possibility but there is nothing positive at this time.

The closure of I-29 has lead to an increase in traffic on Brown County highways, especially U.S. 36 and 75.

Merchant said deputies will continue to heavily patrol the highways when they are not answering other calls in the county. He added deputies are working overtime to keep an officer presence on the highways as a deterrent for impatient and dangerous drivers.

Merchant said deputies have issued many citations for speeding, improper passing, no insurance, no drivers license, illegal registration and other violations, as well as made some arrests.

Until traffic returns to normal, Merchant urges motorists to not take chances, watch out for the other driver, allow plenty of time, buckle your seatbelt and be the best defensive driver you can be

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