



State of Wisconsin

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
Wisconsin Emergency Management

2400 WRIGHT ST
PO BOX 7865
MADISON, WI 53707-7865
Telephone: (608) 242-3232
Fax: (608) 242-3247
24-hour Emergency Hotline:
1-800-943-0003

INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE MEMO
10-01-04

DATE: October 15, 2004

TO: County Emergency Management Directors

FROM: Johnnie L. Smith
Administrator

SUBJECT: 2004 Winter Awareness Week

Governor Jim Doyle has declared November 8 – 12, 2004 as Winter Awareness Week for the State of Wisconsin. Winter Awareness Week is intended to remind the public to properly prepare for the onset of winter. While the winter weather has been generally mild for the past several years in Wisconsin, it is still important to remember the dangers associated with extreme winter weather.

During winter, the most obvious threat to everyone is the cold and wind that can occur from November to April. Frost-bite and hypothermia can occur if people are not properly dressed or prepared during periods of extreme cold and wind-chill. Every year, there are heart attacks from people overexerting themselves while shoveling snow or participating in other outdoor activities.

Aside from the weather conditions, operating a motor vehicle can become more hazardous during the winter months. Driving on snow and ice covered roads contributes to many automobile accidents during the winter. Carbon monoxide poisoning can be a secondary hazard while operating a vehicle in the winter.

Being prepared and using common sense can go a long way in ensuring winter health and safety. Before it snows and temperatures fall, service your furnace to ensure proper operation. Be sure to prepare your automobile for colder weather, making sure that the tires are in good winter driving condition. If you are planning outdoor activities, make sure you listen to weather forecasts so you dress accordingly and determine an appropriate level of activity. These simple tips and others are included in the enclosed information packet. Please visit our website, that of the Red Cross, as well as that of the National Weather Service for other helpful information. The maps attached to this memo may appear dark due to photocopying, however colored maps are available on the WEM website.

The National Weather Service and Wisconsin Emergency Management jointly sponsor Winter Awareness Week and ask the county emergency managers to promote this effort. If you have any questions regarding Winter Awareness Week, please contact your Regional Emergency Management Director.

Enclosures

DISTRIBUTION:

MG Albert H. Wilkening, TAG

Stan Davis, Governor's Legal Counsel

Randy Thiel, Department of Public Instruction

Barb Fonkert, Minnesota Division of Emergency Management

National Weather Service District Offices

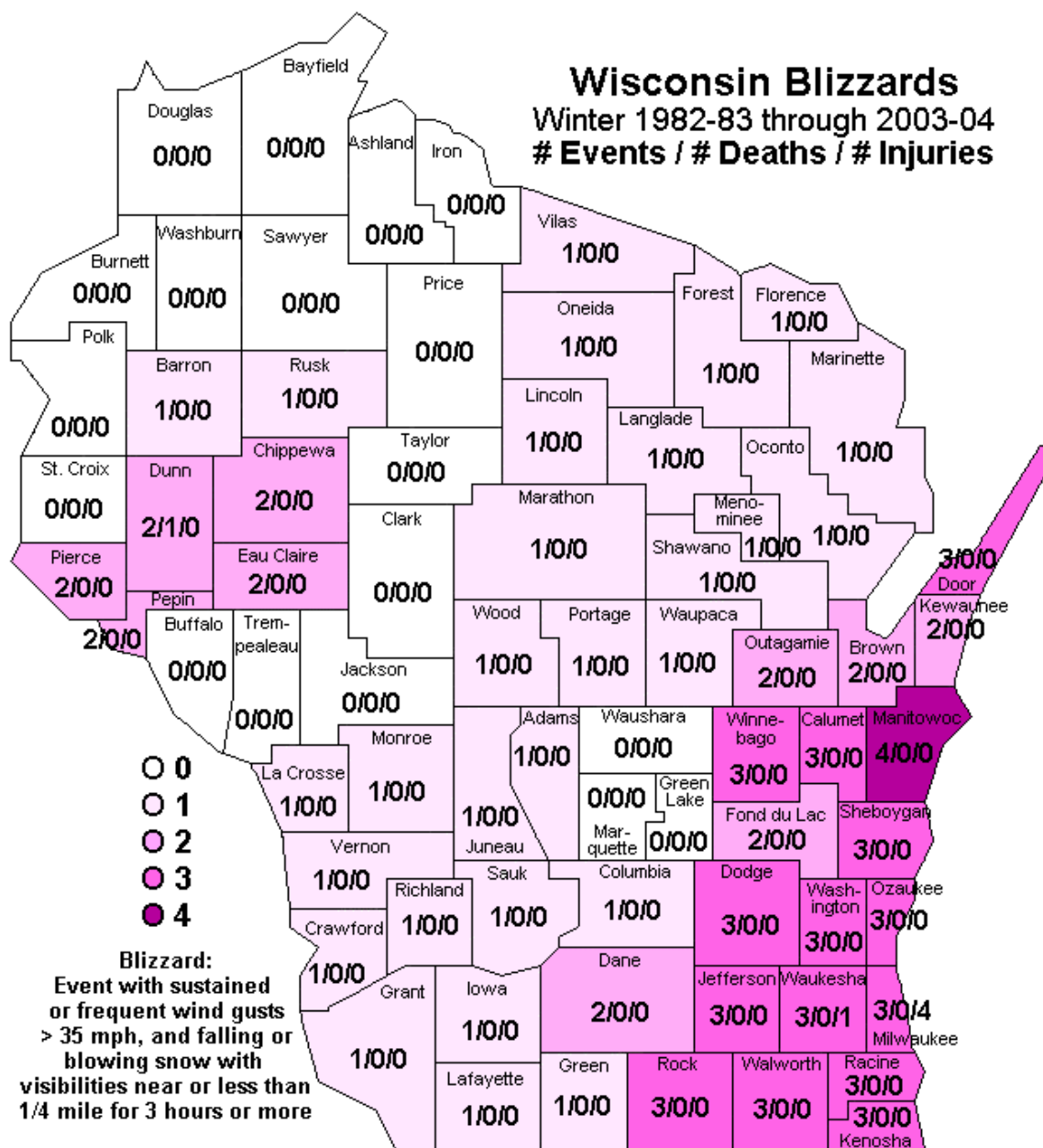
Max Olsen, Badger Chapter, American Red Cross

Wisconsin Emergency Management Staff

*Previous Information and Guidance Memo 09-03-04: EPCRA Facilities without Plans
Scheduled Plan of Work Action Report

Wisconsin Blizzards

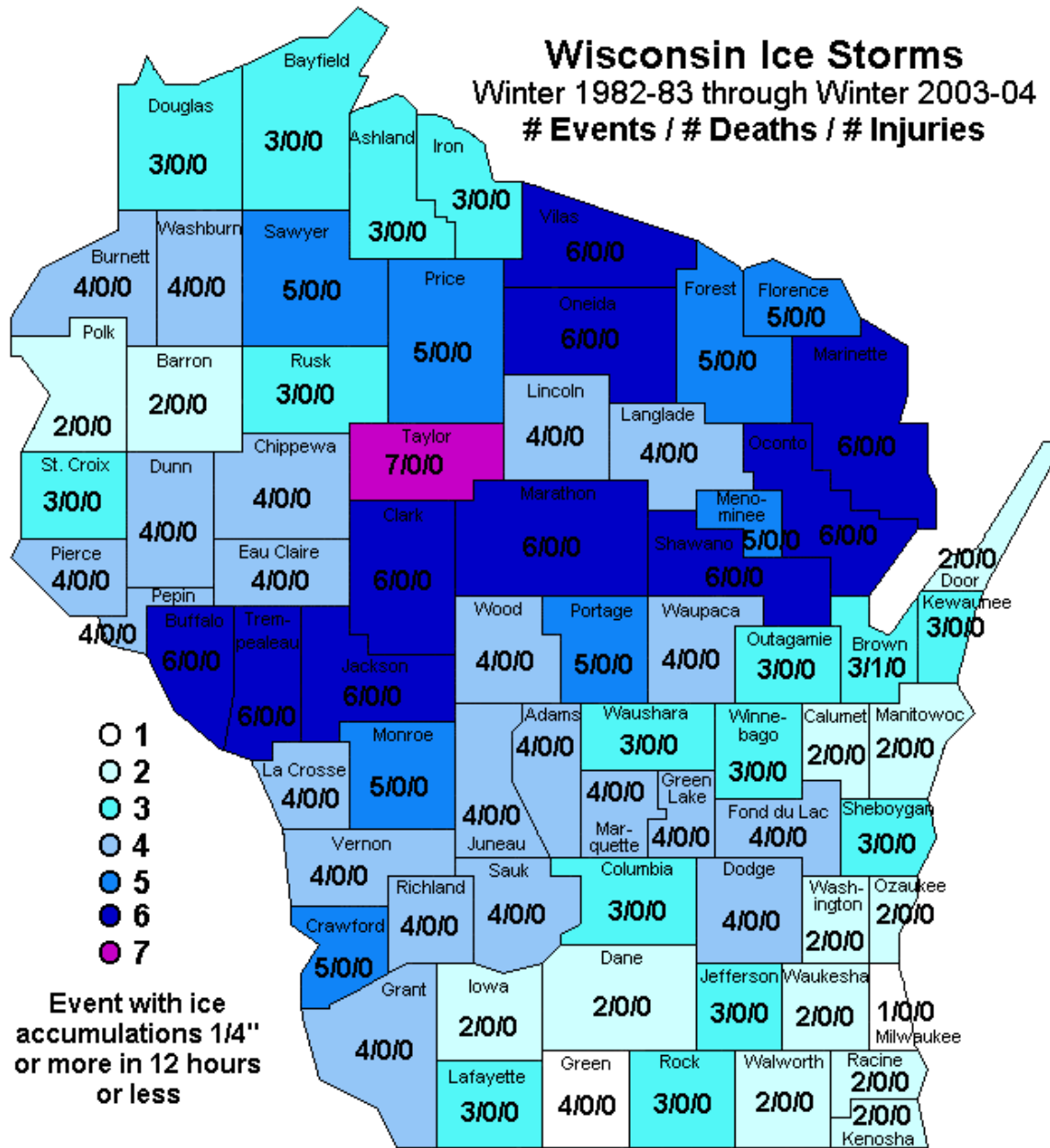
Winter 1982-83 through 2003-04
 # Events / # Deaths / # Injuries



Wisconsin Ice Storms

Winter 1982-83 through Winter 2003-04

Events / # Deaths / # Injuries



Total Winter Weather Events

Winter 1981-82 through 2003-04

Events / # Deaths / # Injuries

