



News Release

WISCONSIN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Joint Force Headquarters ■ 2400 Wright Street ■ Madison WI ■ 53704

DATE: September 29, 2010
3:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Jim Doyle

FROM: Mike Hinman
WEM Administrator

SUBJECT: Situation Report #11 on Severe Weather/Flooding

Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) remains at Level 4 status. A Duty Officer and Senior Duty Officer are monitoring the events. There has been no request for assistance. A State of Emergency remains in effect for Buffalo, Jackson, Columbia, Clark, Trempealeau, Marathon, Portage, and Wood Counties.

Counties that sustained flood damage in the last week, are conducting damage assessments and the information is being submitted in a Uniform Disaster Situation Report (UDSR) to Wisconsin Emergency Management. A UDSR provides preliminary information about the type of damage and estimated financial impacts. In this report, the "affected" and "minor" numbers were combined. Public sector means damage to public infrastructure such as roads, bridges, etc.

State UDSR Totals:

Residential: 345 Minor, 27 Major, 3 Destroyed

Businesses: 50 Minor, 7 Major

Public Sector Costs: \$4,592,273

Additional damage assessments will continue and these totals could rise.

National Weather Service: Flood warnings remain for counties along the Mississippi and Columbia County. In addition, new warnings were issued for the Wolf River.

Below is the latest county update:

Columbia County: County officials report that many of the homes in the Blackhawk area remain inaccessible by the flood waters. Approximately 200 homes are in the area with most evacuated as a result of the closure of Blackhawk Road. Officials have contacted residents who decided not to evacuate and all are fine. Local officials are also handling clean up issues such as

distributing water test kits to make sure private wells are not contaminated. In the UDSR, Columbia County reports 120 homes with minor damage, 10 with major damage and approximately \$40,000 in damage to public infrastructure. They also had 5 businesses with minor damage and one with major damage. Damage assessments will continue once flood waters recede.

Press Release from WI Department of Natural Resources

The water level of the Wisconsin River at Portage continues to drop at the rate of about one-inch an hour and Department of Natural Resources officials are hoping the worst is over at the Caledonia-Lewiston Levee, popularly known as the Portage Levee.

“We are not completely out of the woods yet, but it appears that the levee is holding-up, even though it is saturated with water and will take some time to dry out,” said DNR public affairs manager Greg Matthews here.

After reaching an all-time recorded high water level on Monday, Sept. 27 – cresting at about 20.6 feet – the Wisconsin River water level at Portage had dropped to 18.7 feet, almost a foot below flood stage, as of 8:00 a.m. this morning. DNR operations crews inspected the 14-mile long sand levee early this morning and found it in “relatively good shape,” said Matthews.

Ten sandbag chimneys erected by DNR crews over the last several days around boils – water bubbling through the levee itself – were among the levee structures inspected this morning and only four were “passing a small amount of water,” noted Matthews. That included a boil at the once imperiled Blackhawk section of the levee, he added.

DNR will continue to inspect the levee for the next week or so and agency dam safety engineers will be brought in to assess the structure’s integrity, said DNR property supervisor Brian Hefty.

Mississippi River Counties: Flood warnings continue for the counties along the Mississippi River. The river should crest soon and should be below flood stage by the weekend. Only minor flooding is reported.

Wood County: Damage assessment is continuing today across the county and in Wisconsin Rapids. In the UDSR, 49 homes sustained minor damage and one had major damage. Ten businesses received minor damage and costs to public sector were \$23,660.

Adams County: Has not submitted a UDSR.

Chippewa County: In the UDSR, officials report six homes with minor damage and \$12,000 in public sector costs.

Eau Claire County: In the UDSR, seven homes with minor damage, one business with major damage and \$32,500 in public sector costs.

Iowa County: Has not submitted a UDSR.

Juneau County: Officials report eight homes with minor damage and reported \$4,500 in public sector costs.

LaCrosse County: In the UDSR, two homes had minor damage, one business with minor damage and \$155,000 in damage in public sector costs.

Dunn County: In the UDSR, seven homes with minor damage and \$2,000 in public sector costs.

Monroe County: In the UDSR, damage to public sector was listed at \$36,000.

Buffalo County: In the UDSR, eight homes were listed as minor and one business as major. Public sector costs were reported at \$645,840.

Pepin County: In the UDSR, one home had minor damage and 24 businesses had minor damage. Officials report \$4,000 in public sector category.

Pierce County: In the UDSR, 30 homes with minor damage and \$23,000 in public sector costs.

Clark County: Damage assessments continue. In the UDSR, 45 homes were reported with minor damage and \$865,765 in public sector costs.

Langlade County: Their damage losses were primarily to the agricultural sector.

Trempealeau County: Damage assessments continue. In the UDSR, officials report 38 homes with minor and two with major damage and eight businesses with minor and four with major damage. Costs to the public sector were \$799,433.

Portage County: Damage assessments continue for residential as well as public infrastructure. In the UDSR, 12 homes and one business reported minor damage and costs to the public sector were over \$459,000.

Taylor County: In the UDSR, officials report \$135,000 in public sector costs.

Lincoln County: Lincoln County Emergency Management reports all roads are open. They have not submitted a UDSR to the state.

Marathon County: Damage assessment is continuing for roads at the county and town level. The latest UDSR submitted indicates one home with minor damage, one with major damage and three destroyed. They also had one business with minor damage. Public infrastructure damage is estimated at \$17,942.

Jackson County: In the UDSR, 29 homes reported minor and 13 reported major damage. Costs to the public sector were \$1,341,004.

Langlade County: Only minor road flooding was reported. All roads open. UDSR was submitted noting the significant agriculture damage that is anticipated.

New Flood Warnings for East Central Wisconsin

Outagamie County: Local officials report the Wolf River in Shiocton is at minor flood stage. However, the river up north is going down so they don't anticipate any issues.

Waupaca County: Waupaca County is experiencing high water levels along the Wolf River and Little Wolf River. The high levels are causing some minor low land flooding that is impacting some farm fields and pastures.

Winnebago County: Local officials are monitoring the Wolf River in the Town of Wolf River. They expect the river to crest in the next few days. They have not other issues to report.

Road Update: For current road conditions, dial 511, or visit <http://www.511wi.gov>