



# News Release

## WISCONSIN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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

**DATE:** September 26, 2010  
3:00 p.m.

**TO:** Governor Jim Doyle

**FROM:** Mike Hinman  
WEM Administrator

### **SUBJECT: Situation Report #8 on Severe Weather**

Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) is currently in Level 4 activation due to the flooding in the State. A Duty Officer and Senior Duty Officer are monitoring the events and responding to inquiries and requests for support from county emergency management departments and state agencies.

#### **Adams County:**

Minor flooding has affected several homes in far southern Adams County. Highway Z is closed near Highway 82.

#### **Columbia County:**

Columbia County has a declared state of emergency and their emergency operations center (EOC) is operational.

The Caledonia-Lewiston levee on the Wisconsin River has real potential for failure. A Department of Natural Resources (DNR) incident engineering team and the Department of Transportation (DOT) are on site and are monitoring the levee condition and the water level.

If the Caledonia-Lewiston levee breaks, there is concern for I-39 north of the Baraboo River bridge. The highway would likely have to close at that point. A local 100-resident subdivision is at risk of a washout of the main road in and out of the community should the levee give way. Homes in the subdivision are on high ground, however, and should not be impacted. The County suggested that the residents evacuate.

Columbia County Emergency Management (EM) requested inmate strike teams from the Portage Correctional Facility to fill sandbags. The WEM Duty Officer contacted the Department of Corrections to inform them of the request for the ongoing tasking of Portage facility inmates.

#### **Grant County:**

No issues to report. No state assistance requested.

**Jackson County:**

The Black River crested yesterday and the water is receding. No evacuations are occurring and no one is displaced at this time. Most people returned to their homes on Friday. There are still 30 roads closed, mostly township roads except for CTH VV.

**La Crosse County:**

County EOC has closed.

Minor flooding was reported in the Town of Campbell, with a campground and some homes affected. The water level is expected to peak this afternoon and quickly reduce.

**Portage County:**

County EOC has closed. The Wisconsin River crested on Saturday but is receding slowly.

I-39 north of Coddington Road is down to one southbound lane due to the subsurface being washed out. State Highway 66 is closed from the City of Stevens Point west to the county line. Several county roads are still closed but may be opened to restricted traffic. 15 to 20 town roads are also closed.

A bridge on CTH HH has problems and has been opened to local traffic only during the day today. It will be closed again later today and a state bridge inspector will be there on Monday to see if it can be reopened.

A "Code Red" (reverse 911) message was sent to 400 Stevens Point residents on Friday evening at 1750 hours, asking them to evacuate and prepare to be out of the area for 1-2 days. They were told to take medications and any special dietary requirements with them.

A shelter was set up at Stevens Point Area Senior High on Northpoint Drive. Pets were allowed, but due to space limitations, it was recommended that residents contact friends or the Humane Society to take care of their pets during the evacuation.

At least 10 homes remain evacuated and gas lines are still not connected.

Sandbags were provided to the Stevens Point Care Center, but it is not in jeopardy. The Wisconsin River Country Club is closed.

The county has updated its website with flood information.

**Sauk County:**

Levee Road has water over it and remains closed.

The County suggested that residents in low-lying areas along the Wisconsin River evacuate. They do not know the number who have evacuated at this point, as many of the properties are vacation homes.

The County issued an advisory to residents along the Wisconsin River from Indian Trail to the Columbia County border to evacuate their homes due to rising water levels. No state assistance is requested at this time.

**Trempealeau County:**

Water has dropped in the County and road barricades are down. Trempealeau County EM has begun contacting locals to document damages. A handful of damaged homes have been reported, but much of the damage at this time is in the form of mud and debris.

The local state of emergency is expected to end on Monday afternoon or Tuesday morning.

**Wood County:**

County EOC closed Sunday afternoon, but the Wood County EM Director is monitoring calls for support. No assistance is requested.

*Wisconsin Rapids:*

The Wisconsin Rapids State Office Building, located at 1681 Second Avenue South in Wisconsin Rapids, has been closed as a result of recent flooding in the area. It is anticipated that the building will remain closed on Monday, September 27th and Tuesday, September 28th. It is expected that the building will reopen on Wednesday, September 29th.

On Saturday, the National Guard's Joint Operations Center called WEM requesting a water pump for the Wisconsin Rapids Armory. The WEM Duty Officer informed him that only immediate resource option was with Wood County EM and recommended that they continue to work the issue with the WING Facilities Manager or obtain civilian contractor support if needed.

Evacuations in Wisconsin Rapids are complete. Shelters are holding approximately 10 citizens and are expected to close Sunday.