



SCOTT WALKER

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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Governor Walker Meets with Local Leadership to Further Flood Recovery Efforts

Madison – Governor Scott Walker met with response teams, tribal leaders, as well as county and local leaders this afternoon in both Ashland and Sawyer counties to determine their ongoing needs in the wake of damaging floods two weeks ago.

“Our meeting with local leaders today helps us hear directly about the needs of communities affected by the storm, so we are better able to help them recover from this natural disaster,” Governor Walker said. “We’re utilizing all of the resources we can at the local, state, and national level to get communities back on their feet. Wisconsin remains open for business, and we encourage families and visitors to our state to call ahead and check the conditions in northern Wisconsin rather than cancel their vacation or travel plans.”

Governor Walker toured storm damage and met with local leadership on July 12, 2016. The same day, Governor Walker declared a [State of Emergency](#) in eight counties in response to heavy rains in northern Wisconsin, which caused flash flooding, power outages, and damage to roads and bridges.

Governor Walker also instructed all state agencies to review their programs for financial assistance tools, and several members of his cabinet traveled to northern Wisconsin the week of the State of Emergency declaration to assess the needs of communities affected by the storm. After hearing the needs of the communities, agency officials traveled to provide technical assistance. Following Governor Walker’s meetings with local leadership today, agency officials will be sent to areas hit by the storm to follow-up.

As an important first step to receiving federal disaster assistance, Governor Walker also requested a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Preliminary Damage Assessment. FEMA officials will arrive in northern Wisconsin tonight and begin their assessment tomorrow. The completion of the damage assessment is necessary for Governor Walker to request a federal disaster declaration.

Updates regarding the flooding in northern Wisconsin are available at <http://readywisconsin.wi.gov>.

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