

Press Release

For immediate release

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Governor Doyle Meets with Local Heroes in Cazenovia

Governor Doyle met with the citizens and local officials of flood stricken Cazenovia this afternoon to recognize some local heroes. Brett Keller, Dennis Adelman, Dave Adelman, and Matt Barreau. These brave firefighters rescued 3 passengers from a vehicle that had been washed into Lee Lake off Hwy. V on Saturday night. The Richland Center Fire Department also had a vehicle rescue that evening. Firefighters Jason Marshall, Gerald Klatt, Scott Gald, Shawn Culver, and Bill Bindl rescued passengers on the intersection of Hwy. OO.

The Governor praised the heroic efforts of the firefighters and all the residents of Richland County noting, "People in this area take care of each other." The Governor spoke with many citizens of the Village of Cazenovia that had stories to tell of how the flood affected them. He offered his respect and admiration, and thanked all involved with the clean up effort.

The Governor left the Cazenovia Fire Department and toured the surrounding damaged area escorted by the State Patrol. He then returned to the Cazenovia Fire Department where a Blackhawk helicopter was awaiting his return. The helicopter was scheduled to fly over many regions of Richland County so the Governor could observe the damaged areas, including Hub City/Rockbridge, Muscoda, Excelsior, Gays Mills, and Kickapoo. He was then scheduled to land in La Crosse where he went on to tour the Town of Shelby and the Vernon County Town of Bergen.

The Cazenovia Dam has sustained significant damage from the flood. Jim Drea, Village of Cazenovia President, explained that 2 panels are affected on the dam, one panel is completely gone and the other is bulging. There was air trapped in the vents located within the dam's structure which, when under water, built up internal pressure that caused the panels to blow. However, the dam has now been cleared as structurally sound.

Governor Doyle spoke with Jim Keller, resident of Cazenovia, whose house is located next to the dam and received significant damage. The Keller home had over 5' of water in the basement and clean up efforts are underway. Mr. Keller stated that he has received constant support from his neighbors.

Pictures of the flood damage and Governor's visit can be found on the Richland County website: co.richland.wi.us

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