

## **Press Release**

For immediate release

**Richland County Emergency Management**

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### **Governor Doyle Scheduled to Visit Richland County**

Governor Doyle is scheduled to visit Southwest Wisconsin the afternoon of Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, and will be touring various flood areas in Richland and Sauk Counties.

Richland County Emergency Management has announced that the Emergency Operations Center will remain open to answer questions and monitor the weather throughout the evening, as heavy rainfall is being predicted for our area. It is anticipated that the EOC will close Thursday evening at 6pm and return to normal business hours thereafter.

The shelter located at the Richland Middle School will also remain open through the night to accommodate those still in need. The shelter housed 5 individuals Tuesday evening, and will remain open until 6pm Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Volunteer Station located at the Kilian Meyer Building in Krouskop Park will be open from 8am to 6pm through the weekend.

The damage assessment data submitted yesterday was reaffirmed today and no new incoming data was tabulated. At this time, there are 5 homes completely destroyed, 23 residents and 3 businesses reporting major damage, and 159 residents and 3 businesses reporting minor damage. The actual value associated with the damage continues to be tabulated and is not available for release at this time. Richland County Emergency Management is requesting that residents submit their damage assessments prior to Noon on Friday. Residents are reminded to take pictures of the damage to their property.

The City of Richland Center reported that the sewer line break at the Waste Water Treatment Facility has been repaired, but citizens are still being asked to conserve their water usage through the remainder of the evening.

Randy Schoeneberg, Richland County Highway Department Commissioner, announced that highway crews have been working all day on the damage to Hwy. 80 N, and anticipate opening the road as early as tomorrow. Debris clean-up continues to be a priority. Gravel and blacktop repair will begin throughout the City of Richland Center and the entire County once debris clean-up is complete.

The Public Health Department continues offering flood clean-up kits at the Kilian Meyer Building and tetanus shots at Richland County Health & Human Services Community Services Building. The local DNR Agency offered guidance, assistance, and supplies to the townships of Richland County today.

Darin Gudgeon, Richland County Emergency Management Director, reported that we have completed the Response Phase of emergency planning and are onto the Recovery Phase. Various grants are being pursued to assist with needs that have been identified throughout the County.

Submitted: 8/22/07 @ 6:30pm