

Press Release

For immediate release

Richland County Emergency Management

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State of Emergency Continues for Richland County

Richland County Emergency Management held a briefing at the Emergency Operations Center this morning to review the damage caused in relation to last night's storm, which has been considered a continuation of the existing State of Emergency for Richland County. Heavy rainfall is being predicted for our area this evening. The Balmoral Dam near Muscoda and the Cazenovia Dam have been cleared as structurally sound. The shelter located at the Richland Middle School and the EOC remain open at this time. The Damage Assessment Hotline will be open from 8:30am to 5pm and the Volunteer Station located at the Kilian Meyer Building in Krouskop Park will be open from 8am to 6pm.

Darin Gudgeon, Richland County Emergency Management Director, reported that there are several downed trees, branches, and debris in the City of Richland Center and throughout the County. Highway crews will be concentrating on clearing debris from the storm water outlets throughout the City of Richland Center to prepare for any additional rainfall. Several homes in Richland Center were without electricity for 1 ½ hours last night and numerous areas around Richland County are still without power. The local DNR Agency will be offering guidance and assistance with debris removal to the townships in Richland County, and also distributing flood clean-up kits as needed.

The sewer line break at the Waste Water Treatment Facility in Richland Center has been repaired, but citizens are still being asked to conserve their water usage at least through today.

Marianne Stanek, Richland County Health and Human Services Public Health Manager, announced that the Public Health Department, along with the local DNR agency, will continue conducting health and safety assessments of Richland County residencies today. 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 Richland Center Goodwill Donation Center will begin accepting donations of clothing, furniture, household items, non-perishable food, and personal hygiene items today. Free vouchers to Goodwill Stores, as well as any non-perishable food or personal hygiene items that are donated, will be distributed to flood victims through the Volunteer

Station. The free Goodwill vouchers are also available at the Aging & Disability Resource Center. Contact 647-4616 for more information.

Governor Doyle is scheduled to visit Southwest Wisconsin the afternoon of Thursday, August 23rd, and will be touring Vernon, Crawford, and Richland Counties.

Submitted: 8/22/07 @ 7:45am