



STATE OF WISCONSIN \

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
Wisconsin Emergency Management

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DATE: August 27, 2007
1:15 p.m.

TO: Governor Jim Doyle
Wisconsin Congressional Delegation
State Legislators

FROM: Johnnie Smith
Administrator

SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT ON FLOODING #24

NOTE TO MEDIA: *All questions relating to FEMA damage assessments should be directed to FEMA Public Affairs. On Monday, August 27, The FEMA PIO at the State Emergency Operations Center is Doug Ward. His direct line is 608-242-3325. His cell phone number is 337-281-4358.*

OVERVIEW

On Sunday, August 26, FEMA Administrator David Paulison announced that federal disaster aid has been made available for affected individuals in Crawford, La Crosse, Richland, Sauk, and Vernon counties.

The assistance, to be coordinated by FEMA, can include grants to help pay for temporary housing, home repairs and other serious disaster-related expenses. Low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration also will be available to cover residential and business losses not fully compensated by insurance.

Federal funding also is available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures for all counties and tribes within the state. This is assistance to counties to help complete improvements to minimize future flood damage.

Residents and business owners, who sustained losses in the designated counties can begin applying for assistance now by registering online at <http://www.fema.gov> or by calling 1-800-621-3362 or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (local time) Monday through Sunday.

FEMA damage assessments:

FEMA will begin private sector assessments in Kenosha, Racine and Jefferson counties on Monday, August 27. Assessments in Dane, Green, Grant, and Rock counties will begin on Tuesday, August 28.

FEMA Public Assistance teams will begin assessing public sector damage (roads, streets and bridges) in Crawford, La Crosse, Richland, Sauk and Vernon counties tomorrow.

County Information:

Vernon County – Vernon County Emergency Management reports that effective 4 p.m. today, all residents living downstream from the Runge Hollow, Hidden Valley, Primmer and Seas Branch dams are to EVACUATE as a precautionary measure. Vernon County received 1.5 – 3 inches of rain this morning and is expecting additional rain this evening.

Crawford County – Approximately 20-25 homes in Wauzeka were flooded this morning when the area received 3 inches of rain in less than two hours. Initial reports show that most of the homes sustained basement flooding, while three to four homes had first-floor flooding.

Richland County – Three inches of rain fell this morning in Akan, Richwood and Eagle townships, causing some road damage. County officials are assessing the situation.

Grant County – Grant County Emergency Management reported that a few homes in the Village of Bagley sustained flooding this morning due to heavy rains. The homes affected were also impacted by the July 18th flooding. The waters from this morning have receded.

Wisconsin National Guard:

The Salvation Army and other volunteer organizations will use the Richland Center armory to house volunteers and store donated goods starting today. Wisconsin National Guard engineers with the 229th Engineer Company will continue road clearing and repair operations in and around Stoddard, Utica, Clayton, Shelby and Soldier's Grove. Approximately 63 Wisconsin National Guard personnel are supporting flood response operations.

Department of Corrections:

Strike teams are working on debris removal in the following counties:

- Three teams in LaCrosse County
- Two teams in Crawford County

Department of Transportation:

WisDOT is reporting the following road **OPENINGS**:

Kenosha County: WIS 50, WIS 83 to WIS 75

Check WisDOT's Web site at <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/flood.htm> for updated information.

Red Cross:

Reception Centers remain open in:

La Crosse County: Southern Bluffs High School, LaCrosse – open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Vernon County: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Viroqua – open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Living Faith Church Warehouse, Viroqua – open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Racine County: Old Union Grove School – open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Crawford and Richland counties will be serviced by a reception center at North Crawford County High School, Soldiers Grove, which is open 9 a.m. to 7p.m. Client casework/outreach will also emanate from North Crawford High School for Crawford and Richland counties.

Reception Centers offer snacks and beverages along with clean up kits, comfort kits, client case work and information and referrals. Assistance may include payment for groceries, new clothing, and rent, as well as funds for emergency home repairs, transportation, household items, medicines, and tools. Individuals or families who apply for assistance must provide identification and address as proof that they live in the affected area.