SITUATION REPORT #9 - ON WINTER WEATHER
Wed, 09 Dec 2009 19:50:00 -0600

Situation - Blizzard Warnings downgraded to Wind Chill Advisories. Lake Effect Snow Advisory tonight for Lake Superior snowbelt (another 2 to 6 inches in that area for a total of 24 to 30 inches max). Wind chill advisories tonight for wind chill values dropping to below -20. Northwest winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts to 35 mph this evening.

Governor's State of Emergency - On 12/08/2009, Governor Doyle declared a State of Emergency for all 72 counties. The declaration calls to active duty elements of the Wisconsin National Guard and instructs all state agencies to assist in any response or recovery efforts that may be required.

Wisconsin Emergency Management - The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will remain open until 8:00 p.m. tonight.

Joint Operations Center - Heavy duty vehicles with chains are available at 10 National Guard facilities and nine have been manned since 6 a.m.; manning will continue through at least 6 p.m., 12/10/09. Aviation assets are also available -- all pending requests from civilian authorities.

Department of Transportation - Motorists can get up to date traveler information by calling 511 from their cellular phones or logging onto www.511wi.gov. All roadways are passable, but there are many snow-covered and slippery spots. Many counties are pulling trucks from secondary roads early this evening to give plow drivers a rest. Full plowing staff will resume early tomorrow morning prior to the morning commute.

State Patrol - Coordinating with local governments and the State Operations Center to handle any potential road closures. State Patrol currently staffed at a high state of readiness statewide. State Patrol is discouraging all road travel. If travel is necessary, individuals are being advised to dress warmly and prepare for the cold conditions.

Department of Natural Resources - 11 wardens in the north east region and 6 in the south central region (4-wheel drive vehicles coordinating through State Patrol) drove the sections of interstate and state highways providing extra eyes for situational awareness and public safety. A total of 97 wardens were on stand-by throughout this event. Bureau of Law Enforcement provided 3 personnel to staff the SEOC during the course of the event.

Information and updates will be posted to Emergency Management's website, http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov/ and Twitter.

For further information, contact Wisconsin Emergency Management at 608-242-3232.