News: Situation Report #2 On Winter Weather
Date: January 7, 2010

Situation - The Wisconsin State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) remains activated at Level 3 to monitor the continuing weather situation around the State. The SEOC will remain open until 8pm today or longer if conditions warrant.

Weather Briefing - A conference call was held with the National Weather Services offices in Sullivan, La Crosse, and Green Bay and several State agencies and county emergency management offices. Rusty Kapela, chief meteorologist at the National Weather Service office in Sullivan reported that the Wisconsin counties of Grant, Iowa, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Sheboygan, Ozaukee, Jefferson, Waukesha, Milwaukee, Lafayette, Green, Rock, Walworth, Racine, and Kenosha remain under a Winter Storm Warning and Bayfield, Ashland, and Iron counties remain under a Lake Effect Snow Warning. He reported that Washington, Ozaukee, and part of Milwaukee counties are expected to receive 10 or more inches of snow during this storm. Sheboygan, Dodge, Racine, Kenosha and the eastern half of Waukesha counties can expect 8 to 10 inches of snow. Counties where 6 to 8 inches of snow are likely include portions of Manitowoc, Calumet, Fond du Lac, Columbia, and Sauk along with most or all of Grant, Iowa, Dane, Lafayette, Green, Rock, and Walworth counties.

Mr. Kapela reports that, as of 2pm today, generally northerly winds in the range of 10 to 15 miles an hour are developing across most of the State. Overnight winds of 15 to 25 miles an hour are likely to cause blowing and drifting snow and reduced visibility.

Mr. Kapela said that snow from the storm should continue into tonight and generally end after midnight, except in extreme southeastern Wisconsin. He said that overnight temperatures will drop into the single digits over most of Wisconsin tonight with warmest temperatures generally in the Lake Michigan bordering counties. Overnight lows below zero are expected in northwestern Wisconsin.

DOT Highways - I-43 remains blocked in the southbound direction in Manitowoc County due to a jackknifed semi-truck. There is no predicted duration for this blockage. Traffic is being rerouted around the incident on State and county roads and continues to move. Except for this location, traffic is moving consistent with winter weather conditions across the rest of the state.

State Patrol - A check of the State Patrol posts indicates that the weather appears to be deteriorating from Milwaukee north to Fond du Lac and also in the Tomah area. The Waukesha post reports improving conditions in the southeast part of the State.

Other agencies represented in the SEOC reported nothing significant to report at this time.