



# News Release

## WISCONSIN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Joint Force Headquarters ▪ 2400 Wright Street ▪ Madison WI ▪ 53704

**DATE:** September 23, 2010  
4:00 p.m.

**TO:** Governor Jim Doyle

**FROM:** Mike Hinman  
WEM Administrator

**SUBJECT: Situation Report #3 on Severe Weather**

Storms continue to cause flooding problems. The National Weather Service (NWS) reports that storms will continue to move across west central, northern and northeastern Wisconsin through the rest of the afternoon and evening. However, the NWS stated they anticipate lighter showers with 1-2 additional inches. Storms could also move across southern Wisconsin bringing strong winds.

Several rivers and creeks are running high. The NWS has issued a flood watch for the Wisconsin River at Portage. Officials expect minor to major flooding in the area this weekend.

The State Emergency Operations Center remains activated and is monitoring the storms and the flooding. Earlier today, Gov. Jim Doyle declared a State of Emergency for Trempealeau County. There have been no reports of injuries.

**National Guard** - The Wisconsin National Guard sent two 5-ton trucks, one Light Medium Tactical Vehicle, one Humvee and a heavy equipment wrecker along with 12 personnel, four cases of MREs and 120 gallons of potable water to Arcadia. Guard members were assisting local law enforcement operate three traffic checkpoints and escort families to their homes if needed. Most of the Soldiers were sent from an Army National Guard field maintenance shop in Eau Claire.

**Department of Natural Resources** - DNR has put the "Coping with Flooding" web link on the current events section on our main page. This is in response to questions that have started to come in related to flooding and water supplies. The link is:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/emergency/flood/cope.html>

**Portage Levee** - Base on expected increasing water levels on the Wisconsin River at Portage, DNR anticipates activating the Incident Command team for the Portage Levee.

Manual Code (MC) requires twice daily inspections of the levee system and morning reports when water levels at the Portage gauging station reach 17.4 feet. These daily monitorings are

expected to start on Saturday Sept. 25. MC requires 24-hour surveillance and Incident Command Operations when water levels at Portage gauging station reach 19.4 feet. They plan to meet with Columbia County officials on Friday.

Hatfield Dam - North American Hydro has activated their Emergency Action Plan at the Hatfield Dam in Jackson County. They are at a "yellow alert condition." This does NOT mean there is a problem with the dam. It indicates that the flows at the dam are high enough that they need to take action at the dam to prevent problems. Operation of the dam under these conditions will likely cause flooding in low lying areas downstream. Dam operators are taking necessary actions to safely pass the current flows on the Black River.

Other Dams in Jackson and Trempealeau Counties - Blair Dam is operating though water is also bypassing around the dam and over Highway 95. This has happened in past flooding events. The situation is being monitored by the community.

Pigeon Falls Dam did overtop during the night when heavy rains caused the river to elevate quickly. The dam was fully opened and the pond is now being held below the normal water level. There was some damage to the dam and the operator is monitoring the situation.

Below is an update of damage:

Trempealeau County: The situation remains unchanged in Arcadia. The Red Cross continues to assist 30 flood evacuees at the shelter at the Arcadia National Guard Armony. The Department of Military Affairs - Regional Emergency All-Climate Training Center (REACT) delivered 20,000 sandbags and a sandbagging machine to Arcadia.

In Blair, local officials report flooding along Highway 95. Local fire departments are filling sandbags.

Clark County: Clark County Emergency Operations Center is activated and the county has declared a local State of Emergency. Three bridges are underwater and an additional bridge is also closed. Officials are reporting over \$580,000 in public sector damage. Clark County has requested 10,000 sandbags from the state.

Buffalo County: Buffalo County has declared a local State of Emergency as a precaution. State Highway 88 remains closed in both directions.

Brown County: Brown County is reporting some road and creek flooding

Outagamie County: Localized flooding. Emergency Management officials are monitoring the Village of Black Creek and parts of the Fox Valley

Waupaca County: One county park is closed due to flooding. Some roads are closed. Minor basement flooding is reported in Clintonville and Marion

Winnebago County: ***Correction: Winnebago County does not have any flooding***

Monroe County: Minor road washouts on County highways G, U, Z and O

Marathon County: Minor flooding reported. Several roads are closed

Jackson County: Reports of at least 10 roads flooded

Portage County: Minor flooding with some road closures in Stevens Point

Shawano County: Several roads are closed due to flooding

Wood County: Several roads remain closed

Pierce County: Several roads are closed

Vernon County: Highway 33 near Ontario and Highway 162 near Chaseburg are closed

Eau Claire County: The city of Eau Claire is reporting some minor flooding. There was a mudslide on Highway 53 northbound just south of the Chippewa County line; but crews have been able to reopen one lane.

Chippewa County: Officials are monitoring the Chippewa River. They anticipate the river to rise tomorrow. County F & N south of Wheaton are closed. The Canadian National Railroad is closing due to roads underwater. They expect it to be a temporary closure.

The State Emergency Operations Center will remain open. Wisconsin Emergency Management, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, State Patrol, Wisconsin National Guard and Wisconsin Department of Health Services are in the EOC.

For further information, contact Wisconsin Emergency Management at 608-242-3292.