DATE:    July 15, 2010
         3:30 p.m.

TO:       Governor Jim Doyle

FROM:    Mike Hinman
         WEM Administrator

SUBJECT:  SITUATION REPORT #5 ON SEVERE WEATHER

OVERVIEW – Regional Directors from Wisconsin Emergency Management have been reaching out to local, tribal and county emergency management offices today to assess the damage from last night's storms. Severe storms, hail, possible tornadoes, straight-line winds and flash flooding occurred around the state – some areas received 2-6 inches of rain.

Flood warnings remain in effect for the Baraboo, Fox, Spring Creek and Kickapoo Rivers.

National Weather Service Damage Assessment Teams are viewing storm damage today throughout western Wisconsin to determine if the damage was caused by tornadoes or straight-line winds. The NWS Office in LaCrosse is reporting that an EF-1 tornado occurred last night in Jackson and Clark Counties causing mainly downed trees and power lines. Additional damage assessments reports will be issued later today.

Highway 12 near the Monroe/Jackson County line was washed out approximately one mile south of Woodland Road in Jackson County. The closure remains in effect until July 26 due to required repairs. Traffic is being re-routed.

Below are the latest damage reports as of 3:30 p.m.:

Adams County – Many downed trees and power lines. No significant damage reported.

Bayfield County – One of the county's communications towers was struck by lightning late yesterday afternoon, causing major damage to the building's electrical system and equipment including a radio repeater, duplexers and a generator. Bayfield County has insurance to cover the damages.

Brown County – Flooding led to the evacuation of the Apple Creek Campground in the town of Wrightstown. Twenty-eight campers and employees left the site after Apple Creek crested its banks.
Buffalo County – Wind damage was reported on the east side of the county. Downed trees and minor washouts were reported on several county roads. Crews are repairing the roads today.

Chippewa County – Minor damages to structures from falling trees and fires from lightning strikes.

Columbia County – No significant damage reported. Ongoing assessment as of this morning. Concerns of high water levels for Swan Lake and concerned with the Cambria Dam and current flow capacity.

Forest County and Potawatomi Tribe – Reports of a few trees and power lines down. No major damage or injuries.

Jackson County – Flash flooding caused many road closures in the southern portion of the county.

Kenosha County – The morning storm produced heavy rains of more than 3”. The area just east of the airport suffered a power outage when five poles were blown down and a transformer exploded.

Langlade County – Several reports of trees and power lines down, but all roads are passable as of this morning and power is being restored. No major damages or injuries reported.

Lincoln County – Widespread reports of downed trees and power lines. Several reports of localized flooding. All roads were reported as passable with power restoration underway. No major damage or injuries reported.

Marathon County – Widespread tree and power line damage. Localized flooding with some street and road damage. No major damage or injuries.

Marinette County – Reports of a few trees and power lines down. No major damage or injuries.

Menominee County & Tribe – Trees and power lines down but all power has been restored. No major damage or injuries.

Milwaukee County – The county was affected primarily by heavy rains during the second set of storms. The 24-hour rainfall total was 3” – 4.45”. This rain produced localized flooding at underpasses and other areas where storm drains were covered or clogged. Overall, the county received calls reporting street catch basins flooding, forestry calls to remove trees and calls that trees were down. Additionally, 380 homes were impacted by flooding.

Monroe County – Flash flooding caused many road closures in the northern portion of the county.

Oconto County – A few trees and power lines were down.

Oneida County – Minor tree damage and some power lines were down.

Ozaukee County – Power outages were reported.

Pierce County – Structural damage in the Ellsworth area includes two destroyed homes, 10 with major damage, 13 with minor damage and 25 homes affected.

Portage County – Reports of a few trees and power lines down. Some localized road flooding, but no major damage or injuries.
Richland County – Village of Yuba experienced localized flooding. Sandbag operations have provided protective measures to the fire department and downtown area. Minor flooding to one area business and home reported. Minor flooding in the Town of Henrietta. Most damage reported at this time has been minor wash outs: culverts, roads, shoulders. More assessment ongoing at this time.

Sauk County – The Baraboo River is at moderate to severe flooding levels near Rock Springs. Sauk County Emergency Management has cancelled a sandbagging operation in Rock Springs, but is continuing to monitor the river.

Shawano County and Stockbridge Tribe – Several reports of trees and power lines down, but all roads are reported as passable.

St. Croix County – Over 30 homes were damaged, two with major damage, one with minor damage and the rest affected by the storm. NWS visiting St. Croix this afternoon to see if damage in Hammond was due to tornado or straight line winds. County officials estimate debris clearance at $10,000.

Taylor County – the Taylor County Dispatch Center went down during the storm, but a dispatcher moved to a back-up site and resumed operations. The dispatch center is functional again this morning but is not fully operational. The electronic control center for the jail is down and locks are being operated manually.

Vernon County – A lot of trees down, heavy localized flooding. Several road closures overnight. Kickapoo River is very high. No significant damage reported.

Vilas County – Scattered reports of downed trees and power lines. All roads passable and no major damage or injuries.

Washington County – The second set of storms caused lightning-related fires. There was flooding in low lying areas over the roads.

Waukesha County – The impact of the storm was restricted to flooding of ramps leading to I-94. Signage was deployed to the scene to assist in traffic flow.

Waushara County – There was flooding on Highway 21 and several county and local roads. Most of the water has receded. Some trees down and minor power outages.

Winnebago County – Flash flooding caused minor damage to about 20 homes in the Oshkosh area. The local chapter of the American Red Cross is providing assistance as well as clean up kits.

Wood County – Reports of widespread downed trees and power lines around the Pittsville area. Some minor damage to homes.

Wisconsin Emergency Management has not received any requests for assistance.