



News Release

WISCONSIN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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

DATE: October 28, 2010
1:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Jim Doyle

FROM: Mike Hinman
WEM Administrator

SUBJECT: Situation Report #6 on Severe Weather

Several communities across Wisconsin are cleaning up, removing debris and conducting damage assessments following two days of wind gusts in the 50-60 mph range. Most of the damage has been minor structural damage or downed trees and power lines.

There are still scattered power outages. The Public Service Commission reports as of 9:30 a.m., the five major electrical utilities in the state (WPL, WPSC, WEPCO, NSPW and MGE) collectively report about 45,000 customers out of service, with most occurring in northeastern Wisconsin. Utilities expect to make significant progress today with restoring electrical services due to calmer weather and extra work crews.

Below is an update from the Wisconsin Emergency Management:

Northeast Region: Several communities are operating warming shelters today at fire stations and other local government facilities and schools. Last night, three counties opened overnight shelters but they were eventually closed due to lack of need. Officials are not planning on opening shelters this evening. There have been no reports of school closures today.

Northwest Region: Scattered power outages throughout the region continue. Bayfield County reports the town hall in Clover suffered water damage due to winds blowing rain into the building. In addition, high waves caused damage to the Washburn Marina wall.

Big Falls Dam (Rusk County): Water drawdown continues behind the dam to help reduce pressure. The Big Falls Dam is on the Flambeau River near Ladysmith. Earlier this week, a sinkhole developed on the east side of the earthen dam. Xcel Energy reports the situation is stable and they continue to work on the dam. Last night, Rusk County Emergency Management contacted residents downstream to provide an update on the situation. There is no request for assistance.

Wisconsin Emergency Management will continue to monitor the weather and power outages. We will provide updates as the situation changes. There has been no request for state assistance.

For further information, contact Wisconsin Emergency Management at 608-242-3239.

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