



Situation Report

Wisconsin Emergency Operations Center

Department of Military Affairs ■ 2400 Wright Street ■ Madison WI 53704

TO: Governor Walker
FROM: Brian Satula, WEM Administrator
DATE: May 22, 2011
RE: Tornado & Severe Storms #1

A series of severe storms has been moving across Wisconsin this afternoon and evening producing hail, strong winds and tornadoes. The hardest hit area appears to be the LaCrosse area. So far, there have been no reports of serious injuries or deaths.

Most of the damage is reported in the south side of La Crosse from the Mississippi River to the bluffs. Several homes and businesses were damaged. The storm hit an area near Gunderson Lutheran Hospital but the hospital was not damaged. Several homes and apartment buildings report roof and siding damage. Officials ordered a mandatory evacuation because of a possible gas leak.

Rescue crews are directing displaced residents to the Gunderson Lutheran parking ramp. Shelters are being set up at Central High School and Lincoln Middle School.

The roof of the K-mart building was damaged and apparently collapsed. Other businesses damaged include the Pepsi Bottling building, Badger Corrugating, and the Green Island Ice Arena.

Local officials have invoked mutual aid for both fire and law enforcement. There have been no requests for state assistance at this time.

Monroe County - Officials in Sparta report downed trees and some homes with minor damage.

Taylor County - Officials report a tornado hit near Gilman but there were not reports of significant damage.

Price County – Officials report minor damage.

There has been no request for state assistance. WEM is in contact with local officials and will have staff in the impacted areas.