DATE: February 1, 2011, 12:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Scott Walker

FROM: Mike Hinman, WEM Administrator

SUBJECT: Situation Report #2 on Severe Weather

The State of Wisconsin Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will elevate to Level 3 at noon today. Staff from WEM, Wisconsin National Guard, State Patrol, Department of Transportation and the National Weather Service will be working in the EOC, monitoring the weather and coordinating with local officials. At this time, there has been no request for state assistance.

In the last 24 hours, much of southern Wisconsin has received snow. Snowfall amounts ranged from 2-7 inches with the higher amounts in the Sheboygan area. Another major winter storm will move into southern Wisconsin this afternoon with high snowfall accumulations and strong winds causing blizzard conditions.

Numerous blizzard and winter storm warnings are posted. There will be a high snowfall rate of 2-3 inches per hour. The National Weather Service is predicting additional accumulations of 2 to 6 inches north from Fond du Lac to the Lone Rock area...with areas south of line receiving anywhere from 6 to 16 inches of additional snow. The heaviest snow will be in the far southeast and near Lake Michigan where lake enhancement is also likely.

In addition to the heavy snow, strong north to northeast winds of 20 to 35 mph with gusts to 40 to 50 mph will result in blizzard conditions across south-central and southeast Wisconsin this afternoon through Wednesday afternoon. The strongest winds will occur this evening and into Wednesday morning. Severe blowing and drifting is expected, with whiteout conditions in open, exposed areas. Drifts of 2 to 4 feet are likely in most areas...with 4 to 8 feet drifts possible in the south and east.

With the heavy snow, winds, blizzard conditions and limited visibility, officials anticipate treacherous driving conditions and probable road closures. State officials are advising people not to travel if possible. If you need to travel, motorists should check road conditions at www.511wi.gov or dial 5-1-1 before heading out as well as have an emergency safety kit in the vehicle. Additional information is available at http://ReadyWisconsin.wi.gov
For additional safety information, visit http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov or http://ReadyWisconsin.wi.gov. Follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ReadyWisconsin) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/ReadyWisconsin).

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