DATE: October 30, 2012  4:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Scott Walker

FROM: Brian M. Satula, WEM Administrator

Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) continues to monitor the effects of Hurricane Sandy. The Wisconsin Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was elevated this morning with additional WEM and WI National Guard staff in response to the high winds and strong waves that were expected along Lake Michigan today. The National Weather Service had originally forecasted waves to reach as high as 8 to 14 feet along the shore between Sheboygan and Kenosha Counties that could cause flooding and damage along the lakefront areas. However, that forecast was downgraded this afternoon and damage to the Lake Michigan shoreline is expected to be less severe than originally anticipated. There have been minimal reports of scattered power outages along Lake Michigan.

Kenosha County: Officials in Pleasant Prairie revised their voluntary evacuation advisory down to a flood advisory and reduced the involved area to south of 110th Street and east of 2nd Avenue. Village officials are still advising residents in this area to protect or move property and belongings to a higher level, if they have not already done so. Areas abutting the four creeks that drain to Lake Michigan remain identified as primary areas subject to flooding and damage from this event. Sandbags will be made available to residents until 6:00 p.m. tonight. Kenosha County Emergency Management will continue to monitor the area throughout the evening and Wednesday.

Hurricane Sandy: WEM continues to monitor the situation and reminds Wisconsin first responders to not self-deploy to the hurricane hit areas. Wisconsin is part of the national Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) that is used to coordinate deployment in support of response and recovery efforts. Impacted states are making requests through EMAC for various first responder resources and emergency management teams to ensure a coordinated response. Wisconsin is ready to send needed assistance but has not sent any resources since assistance is coming from nearby states at this time.

Volunteer/Donations: For those who would like to help hurricane victims, disaster relief officials are recommending monetary donations to disaster volunteer organizations such as the American Red Cross or Salvation Army. The organizations can then purchase supplies such as food, water and other items to help those in need. WEM also recommends that those who want to volunteer should contact local disaster relief organizations that are coordinating volunteer response efforts rather than to self-deploy to a disaster area.

Wisconsin Emergency Management remains engaged with local officials. The State Emergency Operations Center was elevated to Level 3 this morning to monitor events but is expected to transition back to Level 4 at 4:00 p.m. While there have been no requests for state assistance, Wisconsin Emergency Management stands ready to help.