



INCIDENT REPORT

Wisconsin Emergency Operations Center

Department of Military Affairs | 2400 Wright Street | Madison, WI 53707

Incident Report #12 – August Wisconsin Flooding

September 2, 2018

Contact: State Emergency Operations Center

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Flood response activities continued across southern Wisconsin today, as communities continue to address high water in many areas.

Approximately 75 Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers mobilized to state active duty in support of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to emplace sandbags overnight along a nearly mile-long stretch of eastbound I-90/94 near Wisconsin Highway 33 in Columbia County. Rising floodwaters and additional predicted rainfall threaten to overtop the interstate potentially causing lane closures without the sandbagging effort. One lane will be closed near Highway 33 while the Guard emplaces sandbags.

Floodwaters are above pavement level on southbound I-39 in Columbia County near Cascade Mountain Road, but previously emplaced pumps, sandbags and berms are holding.

The National Weather Service said southern Wisconsin will receive additional rainfall in the late afternoon and evening hours of Sept. 2 with a marginal risk of severe weather with damaging winds. Rainfall totals ranging from .25 inches to .75 inches are expected in the region with the possibility of some localized areas receiving higher totals of 1 to 3 inches.

The Baraboo River remains at a major flood stage at Reedsburg, Rock Springs and near Baraboo, while the Fox River remains in a moderate flood stage at Berlin.

Additional rain is expected Monday into Monday night before a break in precipitation on Tuesday followed by more rain Wednesday.

The American Red Cross closed the shelter at Westby High School in Vernon County on Sunday, however an independently managed shelter is operating at Elroy Elementary School in Juneau County.

Drivers travelling through Wisconsin during the holiday weekend are urged to check 511wi.gov for current road closure information. If you encounter a closed route or standing water on a roadway, turn around and find another route. Do not drive around barricades or on flooded roads.

While the focus in many communities remains on protecting the safety of people and preventing damage to public infrastructure and private property, some areas have started to collect damage information. Preliminary estimates show nearly \$51 million in damage to public infrastructure has been reported so far, although that number is expected to change in the days ahead.

Private property owners should continue to report flood and storm damage by calling 2-1-1 or 877-947-2211. Make sure to document losses and speak with an insurance agent. Multiple resources designed to help residents with their recovery efforts are being posted online at <http://readywisconsin.wi.gov/flooding/AUG2018.asp>.

The State Emergency Operations Center is currently elevated. The state is monitoring the situation and providing assistance to local emergency responders as requested.