



INCIDENT REPORT

Wisconsin Emergency Operations Center

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

Incident Report #14 – August Wisconsin Flooding

September 4, 2018

Contact: State Emergency Operations Center

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Heavy rains, strong winds, and possible tornadoes could impact western Wisconsin Tuesday. The National Weather Service (NWS) says 2-4 inches of rain will be common, with some areas north of La Crosse receiving 6-8 inches.

Areas south of La Crosse, which have already been hit hard in the last week, could see 2-3 inches locally. Flood Warnings are currently in effect for portions of Juneau, Vernon, Richland, Crawford, Monroe Counties. Flood Watches have been posted throughout parts of southern, central, and northwest Wisconsin. If drivers encounter flooding on a roadway, they are urged to turn around and find another route. Never attempt to drive through floodwaters.

There is also a chance for tornadoes Tuesday evening. Tornado watches are in effect for much of western and central Wisconsin until 10 p.m. Tuesday.

Overnight, numerous roads were closed due to flooding and damage. Several areas received 3-6 inches of rain, some of which fell in the same areas that were impacted last week. Damages reported in several counties include:

Vernon County - Another 6 inches of rain fell in the Readstown area overnight. Approximately 10 people were evacuated. Coon Valley was also hit by heavy rains for the second time in a week. A mudslide blocked both lanes of Highway 35 near Genoa for more than hour. The creamery plant in the Village of Chaseburg was closed due to flooded roads.

Juneau County – Juneau County has been experiencing widespread flooding due to overnight rains. The Red Cross is opening up a shelter at the Mauston High School.

Dane County – County officials continue to monitor the lakes. At a briefing Tuesday morning, water levels on Lake Mendota were up a quarter of an inch, while Lake Monona, Lake Waubesa, and Lake Kegonsa were up an inch. Sandbagging efforts continue in Monona.

Jefferson County - The Wisconsin Department of Corrections had an eight-member strike team filling sandbags Tuesday. There are continued concerns about rising levels on the Rock River.

Columbia County – Sandbagging efforts on I-39 resumed Tuesday afternoon with 22 members of the Wisconsin National Guard assisting with the effort on location. An additional 10 Guardsmen also filled sandbags in Wyocena.

Richland County – Flash flooding occurred along the Pine River and in other areas that had previously seen flooding. A shelter remains open at the Richland Center Community Center and the county emergency operations center is open overnight to monitor conditions.

County emergency management officials were set to start conducting damage assessments on Tuesday, but those were postponed because of concerns about the weather. Early estimates of damage to public infrastructure from the last two weeks are approximately \$51 million.

Private property owners should report flood and storm damage by calling 2-1-1 or 877-947-2211. Officials with 2-1-1 report they have received more than 2,700 calls reporting damage.

Homeowners and businesses with damages should save receipts and document damage by taking pictures. It is also important to check with your 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 Statewide Emergency Operations Center remains elevated. The state is monitoring the situation and providing assistance to local emergency responders as requested.