



INCIDENT REPORT

Wisconsin Emergency Operations Center

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

Incident Report #15 – August Wisconsin Flooding

September 5, 2018 12:00 pm

Contact: State Emergency Operations Center

Phone: 608-888-5328

Another round of heavy rain hit Southwest, West Central, and Northeast Wisconsin Tuesday night, with up to 6 inches falling in some areas. Heavy rains fell across a large portion of the state bringing strong winds and flash flooding in many areas that have already experienced flooding in recent weeks. The National Weather Service has now confirmed 19 tornadoes that hit east central Wisconsin on August 28, including an EF-1 near Eden in Fond du Lac County and an EF-0 near Cascade in Sheboygan County.

An American Red Cross-supported shelter is open in Richland County at the Richland Center Community Building. The shelter in Juneau County at Mauston High School is now closed.

The Wisconsin National Guard completed its sandbagging mission along the I-39/90/94 in Columbia County and remains on standby in the event further assistance is requested.

The following counties experienced Flood Warnings overnight: Marathon, Lincoln, Langlade, Oneida, Sauk, Buffalo, Jackson, Clark, Trempealeau, Juneau, Vernon, Richland, Crawford, Monroe Counties. If drivers encounter flooding on a roadway, they are urged to turn around and find another route. Never attempt to drive through floodwaters.

Other county notes include:

Richland County – Several county roads are closed due to flash floods impacting the villages of Viola, Yuba, Rockbridge, and Hub City and the towns of Rockbridge, Henrietta, Bloom, Forest and the City of Richland Center, which experienced significant flooding. The county emergency operations center is open, and officials declared a county-wide state of emergency. A shelter remains open at the Richland Center Community Center. Sandbagging operations continued yesterday in Rockbridge and Richland Center.

Monroe County – Reports have been received of an individual impersonating a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources official going door to door in the Town of Portland. The individual is telling residents to evacuate immediately due to a pending dam failure. The DNR has not sent anyone to order an evacuation in that area. If an evacuation is necessary, instructions for evacuation will come from local law enforcement.

Jefferson County – Officials continue to monitor the Crawfish and Rock Rivers. They are sandbagging as a precautionary measure. The National Weather Service predicts that both rivers will crest Friday in a “Moderate Flood Stage”

Clark County – Moderate to heavy rainfall fell across the area overnight, and law enforcement indicated that the area received several inches of rain and that some roads are under water.

Marathon County – All lanes in both directions are closed on WI-107 near Brokaw on Lincoln Drive.

Marquette County – Highway 22 on Main Street in Montello is closed in both directions. They are sandbagging as a precautionary measure.

Trempealeau County – More than 5 inches of rain fell in the northern part of the county. Arcadia did preventative sandbagging in advance of the rain.

Several schools have closed or have delays due to flooding or flood-related concerns. Parents are encouraged to contact their local school district to see if they are impacted. Montello schools are closed for the remainder of the week and the Reedsburg campus of Madison College is closed today.

Agricultural producers should report damage and losses to their local farm services agency. Examples of agricultural damage include buildings and equipment, livestock (including bees and hives), crops, conservation structures, fences, and orchard/nursery trees, bushes, and vines.

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.