



INCIDENT REPORT

Wisconsin Emergency Operations Center

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

Incident Report #6 – July 2019 Statewide severe weather incident

July 26, 2019

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SUMMARY

Wisconsin Emergency Management continues to monitor and support power restoration and debris removal operations still underway in the state, following powerful storms over the weekend that produced at least 16 tornadoes and straight-line winds in multiple counties.

Less than 3,000 Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) and Dairyland Power Cooperative utility customers remain without power following last week's storms. Work continues around the clock to restore power as quickly as possible.

Multiple state agencies have staff and other resources out in the field assisting with local recovery efforts, including the Wisconsin National Guard, Wisconsin Emergency Management, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Department of Corrections.

The state continues to work with county and tribal partners to collect damage estimates. Residents are encouraged to call 2-1-1 or 877-947-2211 to report damage done to private property. Property owners can also contact 2-1-1 for information on volunteer assistance that may be available in their area.

LOCAL EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTERS OPEN

Barron County

Langlade County

Polk County

LOCAL EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS

Several counties have declared a State of Emergency in response to the storm damage, including Clark, Langlade, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Polk, Portage, Sawyer, and Vernon counties. In addition to counties, several communities in the affected areas have also issued local disaster declaration.

ESTIMATED PUBLIC DAMAGES

The preliminary estimate for public sector costs associated with the storm is about \$2.3 million. Many counties have not yet reported any of their costs to the state, and these numbers are expected to fluctuate as cleanup and assessment efforts continue. Most of the costs incurred so far are for emergency protective measures and debris removal.

ESTIMATED PRIVATE DAMAGES

Damage assessments to private property are ongoing. Residents in affected counties are encouraged to document their damage and report the information to the state's 2-1-1 service by calling 2-1-1 or 877-947-2211.

STATE AGENCY RESPONSE

Wisconsin National Guard

The Wisconsin National Guard has engineer assessment teams operating in Polk, Barron, and Langlade counties. Debris clearance teams from the Wisconsin Army and Air National Guard supported efforts in Polk and Barron Counties on Friday and will also be in Langlade County on Saturday.

WI Department of Administration

DOA offers disaster recovery assistance to local units of government for housing rehabilitation, public facility/infrastructure repair, and business assistance utilizing Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. Application information for the Emergency Assistance Program (EAP) can be found at the following link - <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/LocalGovtsGrants/Community-Development-Block-Grant-Emergency-Assistance-Program-.aspx>

Department of Corrections

Strike teams made up of DOC staff and inmates are currently assisting with debris removal operations in Langlade and Barron counties.

WI Department of Natural Resources:

The DNR continues to have staff working in Barron, Langlade, and Oconto counties. Most of those personnel are working on debris removal operations. DNR Forestry is working with Barron and Polk Counties to assist with coordinating and supporting volunteer cleanup operations this weekend.

WI Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection

DATCP is warning property owners to be on the lookout for traveling contractors, who may try to take advantage of the situation. Affected property owners are being urged to seek trusted contractors for repairs and to be leery of "storm chasers" that come knocking at your door with aggressive sales tactics.

https://readywisconsin.wi.gov/wp-content/uploads/Incidents/2019/DATCP_20190724StormChasers.pdf

Office of the Commissioner of Insurance

OCI continues to urge affected property owners to document damage to their property and to not make any repairs until they have talked to their insurance agent. Keep any receipts for repairs that are done.

https://readywisconsin.wi.gov/wp-content/uploads/Incidents/2019/OCI_NewsReleaseStorms20190724.pdf

VOLUNTEER AGENCY RESPONSE

Volunteer Reception Centers

Centers have been established in Polk and Barron counties where volunteers looking to assist with clean-up efforts can gather for assignments on Friday and Saturday.

- Polk County
Unity High School
1908 WI 46 in Balsam Lake, WI
FRIDAY – SUNDAY
8AM – 4PM
Bring a photo ID, wear closed-toe shoes, long pants, long-sleeve shirts, safety glasses, hearing protection and work gloves. Bring a bag lunch. Bug spray and sunscreen recommended. Minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- Barron County
Barron County Justice Center
1420 STH 25 North in Barron, WI
FRIDAY – SATURDAY
7AM – 7PM
Bring a photo ID, wear closed-toe shoes, long pants, long-sleeve shirts, safety glasses, hearing protection and work gloves. Bring a bag lunch. Bug spray and sunscreen recommended. Minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- Unaffiliated volunteers are strongly encouraged to check in at the volunteer reception site. By checking in volunteers receive liability coverage. Every hour volunteered provides financial relief to local towns.

Resident Reception Centers

A reception center to assist residents affected by the storms will remain open in Oconto County at the Doty Town Hall through Monday.

Team Rubicon

Currently mobilized in Langlade County with two teams conducting damage assessment and two teams cutting debris. Team Rubicon is working off the list of damages reported to 2-1-1.

2-1-1 Wisconsin

2-1-1 Wisconsin is collecting damage reports and referring callers to available disaster resources. Residents can also report damages online at: <https://211wisconsin.communityos.org/damage-report>

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Thunderstorms were possible in far northern Wisconsin through the evening on Friday, with a Severe Thunderstorm Watch in effect for Ashland, Bayfield, and Douglas counties through 10pm. There is a chance for more thunderstorms over central and southern Wisconsin Saturday afternoon and evening. A period of more widespread showers and thunderstorms is expected across far western Wisconsin Sunday afternoon and across the rest of the state Sunday night into early Monday. No severe weather is expected at this time.