



# INCIDENT REPORT

## Wisconsin Emergency Operations Center

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

Incident Report #9 – July 2019 Statewide severe weather incident

July 29, 2019 – 5 p.m.

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### SUMMARY

Severe weather swept across the state last night. The National Weather Service Twin Cities confirmed a tornado touched down on the northeast side of Bone Lake in Polk County. Homeowners reported damage to four homes as well as farm buildings.

Governor Tony Evers met with storm victims today in Polk County. He was joined by Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar, Wisconsin's adjutant general, Dr. Darrell Williams, Wisconsin Emergency Management Administrator, and Department of Natural Resources Secretary, Preston Cole. They also met with county and local officials to discuss recovery efforts.

Meanwhile, counties continue to conduct damage assessments and debris removal, following powerful storms that produced at least 16 tornadoes and straight-line winds in multiple counties. Significant cleanup efforts continue in Langlade, Polk, and Barron Counties.

We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) restored power to the majority of the more than 100,000 We Energies customers by July 24 and more than 190,000 WPS customers by July 27. Nearly 1,000 workers from WPS, We Energies and utility crews from around the Midwest teamed up to rebuild circuits and remove debris from equipment destroyed by high winds and lightning. They replaced or repaired more than 900 utility poles, 600 transformers, 125,000 fuses and 925,000 feet of wire. They encourage citizens that come across down power lines or equipment to stay at least 25 feet away. The utility companies plan to remove damaged equipment before the week of Aug. 12.

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

The Town of Mountain will establish a Multi-agency Resource Center (MARC) July 30-31 from noon until 6 p.m. at the Mountain Community Center.

## **LOCAL EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS**

Several counties 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 issued local disaster declarations.

## **ESTIMATED PUBLIC DAMAGES**

The estimate for public sector cost associated with the storm is about \$8.4 million. This number is preliminary and has not been validated. 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 continue. 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 debris clearance teams supporting efforts in Polk, Barron, and Langlade counties.

### **WI Department of Administration**

DOA has disaster recovery assistance available 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>

### **WI Department of Corrections**

The DOC has strike teams made up of DOC staff and inmates assisting with debris removal operations. Operations in Crystal Lake began today.

### **WI Department of Natural Resources**

The DNR completed operations in Barron County the evening of July 27, and in Polk County July 28. The DNR gave permission to residents in the Town of Crystal Lake to discard wood debris on two DNR owned sites in Comstock. The township will provide a tub grinder for chipping debris.

## **VOLUNTEER AGENCY (VOAD) RESPONSE**

### **2-1-1 Wisconsin**

2-1-1 Wisconsin is collecting damage reports and referring callers to available disaster resources. To date, they have received more than 1,000 calls. Residents can also report damage online at: <https://211wisconsin.communityos.org/damagereport>

### **WEATHER CONDITIONS**

The National Weather Service does not predict any severe weather in Wisconsin during the next 72 hours.