

Incident Report #19 –Wisconsin Flooding & Severe Storms

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Since August 17, many communities from across the state have been impacted by flooding and tornadoes. Fortunately, Wisconsin is experiencing drier weather which is allowing river levels to drop and cleanup and recovery efforts to begin.

County emergency management offices are still collecting damage information. Homeowners and businesses impacted by flooding or storms should contact 2-1-1 or their county emergency management director this week, as the information will be submitted to Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) by Monday.

WEM has been sharing damage information with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and our need for federal disaster assistance for communities to recover. WEM is in the process of compiling county assessments and working closely with county emergency management directors in reviewing major damaged properties that were submitted to 2-1-1 and infrastructure damage to roads, bridges, etc. This process should be finished by next week and the results will help us determine which counties could qualify for federal disaster aid.

Following the final assessment, Governor Walker will make a request to FEMA to conduct a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) in the counties identified by WEM for Individual Assistance (for homeowners) and/or Public Assistance (for damage to public infrastructure). This is the first step to request a federal disaster declaration. FEMA teams will come to Wisconsin later this month, meet local and state officials, review assessments and view major damage to both homes and to public infrastructure. The PDA could take 4-5 days, depending upon how many counties are involved. The dates and locations have not been scheduled at this point.

The information FEMA gathers will be provided to Governor Walker to use in his request to President Trump for a federal disaster declaration for potentially both Individual Assistance and Public Assistance. It is anticipated that a request would be submitted in early October.

While the process to seek federal assistance takes time, we encourage those homeowners and businesses impacted by the flooding to continue with cleanup, keep receipts, and record damage. In addition, many communities still have volunteer groups available to help with cleanup. Homeowners should contact 2-1-1 to find out what assistance is available.