



News Release

WISCONSIN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Joint Force Headquarters ▪ 2400 Wright Street ▪ Madison WI ▪ 53704

DATE: October 27, 2010
11:00 a.m.

TO: Governor Jim Doyle

FROM: Mike Hinman
WEM Administrator

SUBJECT: Situation Report #4 on Severe Weather

A High Wind Warning remains in effect for most of Wisconsin throughout the day. The National Weather Service is reporting most locations with wind gusts in the 40-50 mph range. They anticipate the winds to get stronger with gusts in the 50-60 mph area this afternoon. In addition, the wind warnings will probably continue throughout tonight.

Some of today's wind gusts include:

- Sheboygan - 59 mph
- Wausau - 51 mph
- Mosinee - 48 mph
- Viroqua - 48 mph
- Fond du Lac - 48 mph

The Public Service Commission reports that many communities are reporting scattered power outages this morning. As of 10:30 a.m., the five major electrical utilities in the state (WPL, WPSC, WEPCO, NSPW and MGE) collectively report about 89,000 customers out of service, with most occurring in northeastern Wisconsin.

Many local officials are reporting downed trees and power lines as a result of the strong winds. Some schools are closed today or started late as a result of power outages. There have also been reports of minor structural damage across the state. Below is an update from the Wisconsin Emergency Management regions:

West Central: Durand reported that school was starting late due to power outages and the wind. City of Medford reported a roof blown off a downtown business. No injuries reported.

Northeast Region: Some schools are closed today in Langlade, Oneida and Vilas Counties due to power outages. No shelters are open, however, several warming centers at fire departments and town halls are open for day use. There are reports of trees on homes and cabins across the

region but no reports of major structural damage. Due to the remote areas, utility companies are estimated that power restoration could take up to 72 hours in some locations.

Northwest Region: The roof was blown off a trailer home in Douglas County. No injuries reported. In Iron County, public health officials are identifying residents with special needs that are in area where there are power outages. They may open a shelter if necessary.

East Central Region: Brown County Emergency Operations Center is partially activated today to continue monitoring the wind. Damage across the region appears to be minimal with mainly downed trees and scattered power outages.

Southeast Region: Damage assessments and cleanup continue this morning in Racine County in the Sturtevant and Mount Pleasant areas following yesterday's EF-1 tornado.

Southwest Region: Parker High School in Janesville remains closed today due to damage to the roof.

Big Falls Dam (Rusk County) - Water drawdown continues behind the dam. Xcel Energy reported yesterday that a sinkhole has developed on the east side of the earthen dam. Engineers are at the site working on the situation. The Big Falls Dam is on the Flambeau River near Ladysmith. Local officials have contacted residents below the dam as a precaution. There is no request for assistance.

Wisconsin Emergency Management will continue to monitor the weather and will provide updates as the situation changes. There has been no request for state assistance.

For further information, contact Wisconsin Emergency Management at 608-242-3239.