



Situation Report

Wisconsin Emergency Operations Center

Department of Military Affairs ■ 2400 Wright Street ■ Madison WI 53704

TO: Governor Walker
FROM: Brian Satula, WEM Administrator
DATE: May 23, 2011, 9:45 a.m.
RE: Tornado & Severe Storms #4

The State Emergency Operations Center returned to Level 4 status at midnight last night. Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) continues to monitor the storms through the 24-hour duty officer system. In addition, WEM staff are expected to travel to LaCrosse this morning for a briefing on the situation and a tour of the damages.

The National Weather Service began an assessment of storm damages in Monroe County last night. They expect to continue assessments today, with at least three survey teams in the following areas:

Team #1 - Monroe/Juneau Counties

Team #2 - Riceville, WI into Fillmore Co., MN / Houston Co., MN

Team #3 - La Crosse area

It is possible that they will assess Clark and Taylor Counties on Tuesday if significant damages exist.

La Crosse County – There is no report of any injuries. Approximately 200 homes were affected by the storm.

The main businesses impacted by damage are: K-Mart, Pepsi, UBC Lumber, Badger Corrugating; approximately six to eight additional businesses have some damage and the extent is unknown. The number of employees affected is unknown, and that information is being collected now.

Central High School shelter housed approximately 20 residents overnight. The Red Cross is assisting with two canteen posts.

Debris removal operations began at daylight this morning. All main roads have been cleared and are passable. There are a few side streets that are partially blocked but passable one way. There are two small pockets within the damage zone where residents are being escorted by first responders due to safety concerns.

Xcel Energy advised that there are approximately 1300 homes with no power as of this morning. It is fully expected that all power will be restored by the end of the day.



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Portage County – Officials report a possible touchdown in the town of Buena Vista and town of Grant (western edge of county). NWS is expected to visit today for an assessment.

For the most part, homes escaped damage in the county, and there were no injuries or deaths reported. County roads fared well, but town roads had lots of trees and power lines down. Barns, trees and power lines are down throughout southern half of county. Power outages are unknown at this time, but are most likely an issue in town of Grant (an area of low population). Pivot irrigation systems were damaged on private property.

Wood County – Two campgrounds in the town of Saratoga were affected by wind damages. Seven people were injured during the storm. Power outages in the county are almost completely resolved.

There have been no additional requests for state assistance.