

## **Press Release**

For immediate release

**Richland County Emergency Management**

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**June 10, 2008**

### **FEMA to Visit Richland County**

Richland County Emergency Management announced that FEMA is tentatively scheduled to visit the Viola area on Thursday. Assistance continues in the Village of Viola, including utility repairs, water pumping, clean up efforts, and damage assessment. At this time, more than 300 homes are affected by the flooding in Viola. The Department of Corrections will deploy an additional 4 strike teams into the area to assist with debris removal tomorrow. Viola has limited road accessibility at this time and all shelters remain closed.

Marianne Stanek, Public Health Officer, reported that Public Health representatives toured the areas of Bloom City, Rockbridge, Yuba, and Woodstock today reaching out to flood victims. Clean up kits have been distributed to the affected areas, including the Village of Viola and the Buena Vista Township.

Initial damage assessment data has been collected and at this time there are 3 homes completely destroyed, 31 residents reporting major damage, and 250 residents reporting minor damage. The actual value of the damage is estimated to reach over \$2 million at this time. Residents should call in their approximate damage assessments as soon as possible. Residents are being advised to take pictures of the damage to their property.

Richland County Emergency Management and local law enforcement are monitoring the threat of potentially serious weather predicted for Wednesday morning through late Thursday evening.

The Emergency Operations Center is planning to close at 10pm this evening and will reopen at 8am on Wednesday.

Submitted: 6/10/2008 @ 7pm