

## **Press Release**

For immediate release

**Richland County Emergency Management**

**Darin Gudgeon, Director**

**(608) 647-8187**

**[gudgeond@co.richland.wi.us](mailto:gudgeond@co.richland.wi.us)**

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## **Richland County Continues Assessing Damage**

Richland County Emergency Management continues assessing flood damage today. Darin Gudgeon, Emergency Management Director, reports that ground water is coming up from the earth in the Buena Vista Township and the Village of Lone Rock. This situation is new to the county and the water continues to flood the area. National Guard engineers are researching these occurrences.

Water crested at 21.4 feet in the Village of Viola at 10am yesterday morning. The record for the area was 21 feet. At this time, the water is receding and Viola remains accessible by boat only. A shelter remains open at the United Methodist Church. Currently, there are no individuals at that shelter.

Public Health Manager, Marianne Stanek, stated that the county continues to wait for clean up kits. However, Public Health is planning to visit Viola and the surrounding areas of the county that were affected to assess their needs. If people have questions about their water, testing their well, or need general assistance, please contact Public Health at 647-8564.

Local officials stated that the City of Richland Center is in good shape and recovering. The shelter at the Richland Middle School in Richland Center will be closing this morning.

Road closures continue, including State Highway 56 and 131 as well as County Highway JJ. These roads continue to be covered by water. Those seeking alternate routes should contact the Emergency Operation Center at 647-8187. The water is receding, but many roads remain damaged. Drivers are encouraged to be cautious. The Department of Corrections may be contacted to offer assistance with debris management.

Richland County Emergency Management and local law enforcement are monitoring the situation in Sauk County and keeping close watch on the Wisconsin River which could affect those from Spring Green to Muscoda.

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

Submitted: 6/10/2008 @ 9am