

Press Release

For immediate release

Richland County Emergency Management

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Richland County Announces Significant Crop Damage

Emergency Management Director, Darin Gudgeon, announces that the southeast region of Richland County has reported over \$3 million in crop damage at this time. Damage assessments are ongoing. Estimated damage in the Viola region is \$1.5 million residential, with over 300 homes affected. In the southeast section of the county, particularly in the Buena Vista Township and Village of Lone Rock, estimates are roughly \$1 million damage to nearly 175 homes. Public infrastructure including wastewater, utilities, and roads are still being assessed at this time. Other areas of Richland County were affected by this storm as well and currently we are trying to put together that data. 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.

Local officials and volunteers continue working in the Viola, Buena Vista, Lone Rock, Rockbridge, and Yuba areas. The Village of Viola is now accessible via road and clean up efforts continue. The Buena Vista Township and Lone Rock area is accessible, but sandbagging and pumping continues. The Emergency Management Director met with teams from the National Guard regarding the flooding issues in the Buena Vista Township and Lone Rock areas which are being caused by ground water coming up from the earth. An assessment is being gathered at this time, and the Emergency Management Director expects a report later this afternoon.

Public Health Manager, Marianne Stanek, reported that clean up kits are now available and a supply of kits have been distributed to those areas hardest hit. Additional clean up kits are available in the Aging & Disability Resource Center located in the basement of the Richland County Courthouse.

People wishing to make donations of clothing, furniture, household items, non-perishable food, and personal hygiene items are being asked to drop them off at the Richland Center Goodwill Donation Center located on Hwy. 14 E. The Donation Center is open from

9:30am – 6pm Monday through Friday and Saturday 9am-5:30pm. The staff at Goodwill will process the donated items and place them in their store.

Any flood victim in need of clothing, furniture, or household items can receive free vouchers which can be used to shop at Goodwill Stores located in Richland Center, Portage, Madison, or Fort Atkinson. The free Goodwill vouchers are available at the Aging & Disability Resource Center, 181 W. Seminary Street (ground floor of the Richland County Courthouse). The Resource Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 5pm or residents may call their office at 647-4616.

Monetary donations are being accepted and may be sent to PO Box 322, Richland Center, WI 53581. Checks should be made payable to the “Wisconsin Region 2 Long Term Recovery Fund”.

For up to date information, visit the Richland County website at co.richland.wi.us.

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