

## **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)**

**June 17, 2008**

### **Presidential Disaster Declaration for Richland County**

Darin Gudgeon, Richland County Emergency Management Director, announced that on Monday President Bush officially made a disaster declaration for Richland County. Six other counties were included in the declaration including Columbia, Crawford, Milwaukee, Sauk, Racine, and Vernon.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has been charged with administering assistance to individuals and businesses under the Presidential Disaster Declaration. All individuals suffering from damage related to the flooding that occurred on June 8<sup>th</sup> will need to register with FEMA. Individuals who submitted disaster assessment information to the Richland County EOC must also register with FEMA. Funding will become available to registered qualified individuals through FEMA based on their criteria and time tables. The assistance can include grants to help pay for temporary housing, home repairs, and other serious disaster-related expenses. Low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration also will be available to cover residential and business losses not fully compensated by insurance.

Residents and business owners, who sustained losses in the designated counties, can begin applying for assistance now by registering online at <http://www.fema.gov> or by calling 1-800-621-3362 or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (local time) Monday through Sunday.

General flood questions should be directed to Richland County Emergency Management at (608) 647-8187. For public health questions or concerns, you may reach Richland County Public Health at (608) 647-8821. For crisis counseling, you may contact Richland County Health & Human Services at (608) 647-6384.

The Richland Center Goodwill Donation Center is still accepting donations of clothing, furniture, household items, non-perishable food, and personal hygiene items. Free vouchers to Goodwill Stores, as well as any non-perishable food or personal hygiene items that are donated, will be distributed to flood victims through the Volunteer Station. The free Goodwill vouchers are also available at the Aging & Disability Resource Center. Contact 647-4616 for more information.

For up to date information, visit the Richland County website at [co.richland.wi.us](http://co.richland.wi.us).

Submitted: 6/17/2008 @ 4:30pm