

## **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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### **Flooding Again in Richland County**

At 3pm Sunday, June 8, 2008, Richland County Chair Ann Greenheck declared a State of Emergency for Richland County. Governor Doyle also declared a State of Emergency for 29 counties in the southern half of the State due to flooding. Local officials stated that the flood is typical to last year and that water levels are nearly identical to the flooding that occurred in August 2007. The Emergency Operations Center has been opened and Emergency Management Director, Darin Gudgeon, will offer a press conference at the City Council Building located at 450 S. Main Street in Richland Center later this evening.

Shelters have been opened at the Richland Middle School in Richland Center and the United Methodist Church in Viola. Approximately 55 people were evacuated and taken to the Richland Middle School Shelter. Additional updates regarding the emergency situation in the Viola area will be reported upon later this afternoon.

The Richland County Sheriff, Highway Commissioner, and Emergency Management Director are encouraging people to stay off the roads due to the many road closures and potentially unsafe traveling conditions. At this time, major road closures include State highways 56, 58, 80 N, 131, 133, and 14 at Readstown. Richland County Sheriff Darrell Berglin recommends not driving through water covered roads due to the unknown dangers. Those seeking alternate routes should contact the Emergency Operation Center at 647-8187. Additional assistance has been requested from the State Patrol, DNR, and Corps of Engineers. The DNR is conducting evacuations in the Viola area at this time.

Marianne Stanek, Richland County Health and Human Services Public Health Manager, has advised all residents concerned about their wells or the safety of their water should pick up a test kit from Richland County Health & Human Services Community Services Building, 221 W. Seminary Street in Richland Center, and drink bottled water or water from a known safe source until a safe test result is obtained. Additional information regarding mold removal and where to obtain clean up kits will be offered later this afternoon.

Submitted: 6/9/2008 @ 10:45am