Urgent News Release #1

Richland County Emergency Management Darin Gudgeon, Director (608) 647-8187 gudgeond@co.richland.wi.us

Angie Rizner, PIO (608) 649-5921 riznera@co.richland.wi.us

For immediate release: July 16, 2012

RICHLAND COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM OFFERING FREE RIDES TO COOLING CENTERS

Richland Center, WI: Due to the extreme heat warnings forecasted for the next two days, Richland County Health and Human Services will be providing free rides to the cooling centers located in Richland Center for residents living in the outlying areas of Richland County. If you are a Richland County resident that lives outside of Richland Center and would like a ride to a Cooling Center, please contact the Aging & Disability Resource Center at (608) 647-4616. These free rides will be offered Monday, July 16th and Tuesday, July 17th from 11am to 3pm. A Transportation Program volunteer driver will be assigned to pick you up from your home at the requested time, and will return you to your home after 4:30pm.

The following Richland Center cooling centers have been designated by Richland County Public Health for any individual needing to cool off. Richland County Emergency Management will open Conference Room 2 of the Richland County Courthouse located at 181 West Seminary Street in Richland Center from 8 am to 5 pm today and tomorrow. The Brewer Public Library located at 325 N. Central Avenue in Richland Center will be open from 10am to 8pm today and tomorrow, and the Richland Center

Community/Senior Center located at 1050 North Orange Street in Richland Center will be open from 7am to 5pm Monday through Friday.

Cooling centers have also been opened in Viola this week. The Village of Viola Office will be open until 5pm today. The Viola Library will be open Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30am to 5pm, and Wednesday and Friday from 2pm to 7pm. Officials will monitor the use of cooling centers and the weather to determine the continued need for cooling centers.

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