

FLOOD UPDATE from Bob Fasick, WisDOT Bureau of Highway Operations

- Preliminary damage assessments (PDAs) to local roads and infrastructure started on June 19th and will continue through the end of this week. These PDAs are necessary to determine whether a county would qualify for FEMA's Public Assistance program. This effort should not be confused with a Federal Disaster Declaration that is already in effect for 28 counties for Individual Assistance (see list below or associated link).

Adams, Calumet, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, La Crosse, Marquette, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Richland, Sauk, Sheboygan, Vernon, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha and Winnebago

<http://www.fema.gov/news/eventcounties.fema?id=10028>

- There were 30 counties in Governor Doyle's original state of emergency declaration:
Adams, Calumet, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, Lafayette, La Crosse, Marquette, Milwaukee, Monroe, Ozaukee, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Vernon, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, and Winnebago
http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/journal_media_detail.asp?locid=19&prid=3447
- Most, if not all of them, will be visited by FEMA. For those that qualify for Public Assistance, local highway authorities can get reimbursed for road/street and infrastructure damage from FEMA. For those counties that do not qualify for Public Assistance, local authorities with road/street damage from flooding can apply for Flood Damage Aids through WisDOT. FEMA pays for damages to non-Federal-aid road/streets (functional classification of minor collector and below).
- Local authorities should provide a list of their road closures to their county emergency management directors. They should note that when the FEMA inspector comes for an inspection to a county, they are not going to visit all of the entities in that county. They are stretched for staff right now, so they just want to see the big-ticket items. With enough big-ticket items, FEMA can make a determination whether the county is eligible for Public Assistance, and move on to the next county. Local authorities should not worry if FEMA doesn't inspect their damaged locations.
- Local authorities should also note that when FEMA does their inspection, a WisDOT staff person or a county highway staff person working on behalf of WisDOT accompanies the FEMA individual, along with a county emergency management staff person. This enables WisDOT to become aware of possible Flood Damage Aids sites should a county not be declared eligible for Public Assistance.
- WisDOT is also going to request Emergency Relief program funds from FHWA for damages on highways that have a functional classification of major collector and above. Those local authorities that feel they have such damages should contact Bob Fasick at WisDOT's Bureau of Highway Operations at (608) 266-3438 or robert.fasick@dot.state.wi.us

