



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

August 26, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Through: Acting Regional Administrator Frederic Kaehler
FEMA Region V
536 South Clark Street, 6th Floor
Chicago, IL 60605-1521

Dear Mr. President:

I write to you on behalf of the people of Wisconsin and the many communities struggling in the aftermath of the severe storms that swept through our state July 27. The combination of powerful winds and a strong EF3 tornado caused extensive damage across multiple counties, leaving families without homes and businesses unable to operate. Many residents are now facing significant disruptions to their daily lives, along with the uncertainty and stress as they try to rebuild their livelihoods. The recovery process will be long, and the impacts are felt in very real and difficult ways.

Goodwill and volunteers cannot replace neighborhoods that were torn apart. The impact of these events exceeded local and state resources. To validate our reasoning, Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments (JPDAs) were conducted for both Individual Assistance and Public Assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The JPDA for Individual Assistance in four counties assessed 2,346 residential structures. Those homes had damages with varying degrees of severity: 84 structures were destroyed, 412 had major damage, 1,331 had minor damage, and 519 others were affected. The total damage costs are estimated at more than \$8.2 million.

The JPDA for Public Assistance validated \$13,861,378.38 in public sector damage in two counties, which exceeded the state's per capita indicator by more than \$2.4 million.

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I request that you declare a major disaster for the State of Wisconsin as a result of severe storms and tornadoes that occurred July 27, 2026. This request includes the

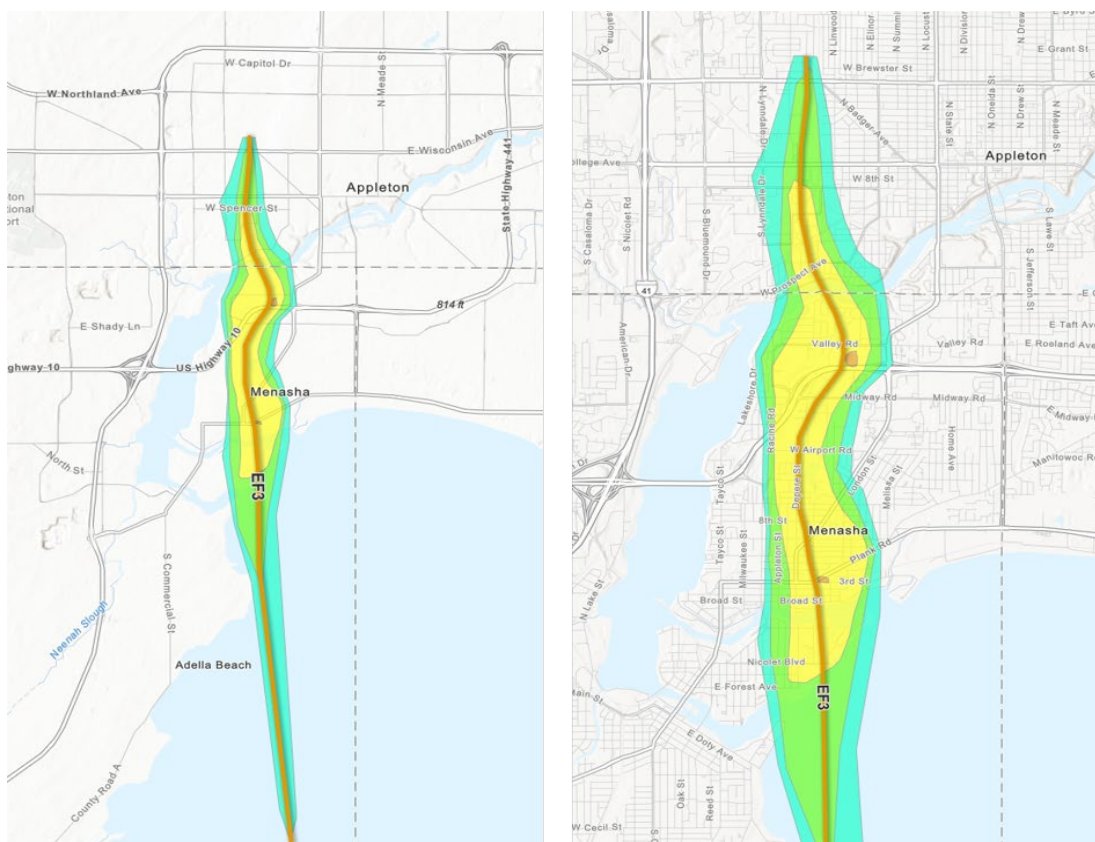
following counties for FEMA's Individual Assistance program: Forest, Outagamie, Vilas, and Winnebago.

I am also requesting the following counties to receive eligible funding through FEMA's Public Assistance program: Vilas and Winnebago.

I respectfully ask you to approve all available federal assistance measures and expedite the deployment of these vital recovery resources. On behalf of all of those affected by these disasters, I thank you for your immediate attention to this matter and for your commitment to the welfare of the people of Wisconsin.

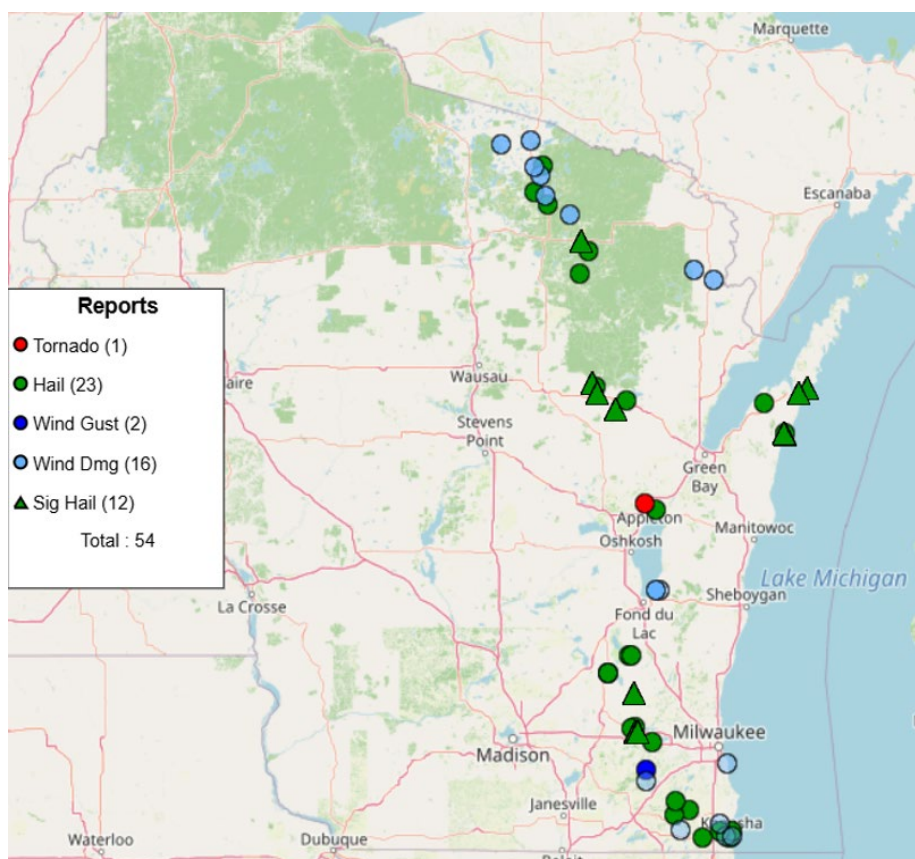
Weather Event

Severe thunderstorms affected portions of Wisconsin on Monday, July 27, 2026. Storms initially formed over southern Ontario and the Arrowhead of Minnesota early Monday morning, pushing southeast. These storms strengthened and became better organized over the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, with a dominant supercell moving southeast into northern Wisconsin. This storm produced large hail and wind damage across northern Wisconsin and included several reports of hail the size of golf balls.



This supercell eventually moved into the Fox Cities, producing an EF3 rated tornado that tracked from Appleton to Menasha, before dissipating over Lake Winnebago. The tornado was on the ground from 11:56 a.m. to 12:22 p.m. for 12.4 miles. In addition to the tornado, very large to giant hail was reported northwest of the Fox Cities, with a 4.5-inch diameter (grapefruit-sized) hail stone reported near Gresham, WI.

During this time, additional thunderstorms developed across southern and southeastern Wisconsin. These storms produced multiple reports of large hail and several reports of wind damage across the southeastern portion of the state during the evening hours.



Emergency Declarations

In response to severe storms and one confirmed EF3 tornado on July 27, 2026, I took appropriate action under state law and directed the execution of the State of Wisconsin Emergency Plan on July 28, 2026, in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act, and issued Executive Order #300, proclaiming that a State of Emergency existed statewide. In this Order, I directed all state agencies to assist as appropriate to support response and recovery efforts statewide.

Local Impacts

Winnebago County

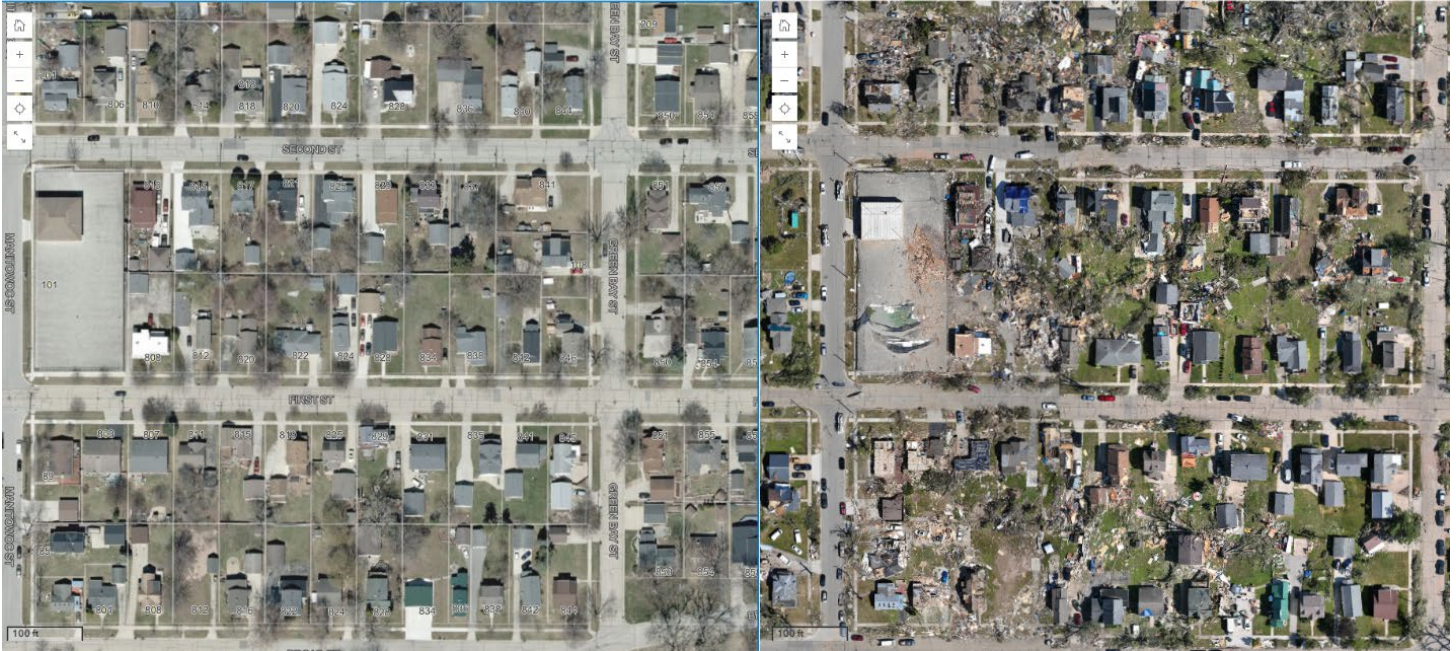
The scale and concentration of damage from the tornado and storms to homes, businesses, critical infrastructure, and local government operations far exceed what communities in Winnebago County can reasonably absorb on their own. Numbers tell only part of the story yet demonstrate the magnitude and scope of damage to the county.

Homes and neighborhoods have been destroyed, businesses have been forced to close, critical infrastructure was damaged, emergency services were stretched beyond capacity, and families have been left with uncertainty of where they will live, work, or go to school.

Recovery will not be measured in days or weeks – it will take years for communities in Winnebago County to rebuild.

Spring 2025 Photo

11/29/2026 Photo



Side-by-side comparison of Menasha neighborhood. Left image shows neighborhood from Spring 2025. Image on the right shows the same neighborhood after the tornado on July 29, 2026. Courtesy: Winnebago County

In the City of Menasha, the hardest hit community from this tornado, 663 homes were damaged, including 140 considered unsafe and likely to require demolition, with an estimated \$69.6 million loss in residential improvement value. Of those residential properties, 237 are rental units, creating additional uncertainty for displaced residents, many of whom are living with uncertainty of whether their homes will be rebuilt at all with many neighborhoods unrecognizable. With a median owner-occupied home value of approximately \$192,000, replacing what was lost may cost substantially more than its pre-disaster value. The hardest hit area of the storm includes census tracts with a high concentration of uninsured homes. The large renter population within portions of the impacted area creates an additional concern. Residents who cannot find suitable replacement housing locally may permanently relocate, potentially affecting the workforce, school enrollment, and long-term neighborhood recovery. Livelihoods have been altered and the community will feel the effects for years to come.



Several homes in Menasha were damaged after July 27 tornado.

The damage was not limited to the City of Menasha alone. Fox Crossing experienced similar substantial impacts. Residential damage included 3 single-family homes destroyed, 79 with major damage, 261 with minor damage, and 25 affected, along with damage to multi-family properties.



Manderfield's Bakery and several homes were destroyed by July 27 tornado.

The human impact is equally significant. Gold Cross Ambulance reported 66 tornado-related calls and 31 patient transports, including injuries and medical needs that continued during cleanup. Regional hospitals, which serve the Fox Valley area including Winnebago and Outagamie counties, initially reported approximately 68 storm-related patients, while public-health surveillance identified 117 injury-related emergency-department visits on the day of the tornado, including 40 visits involving lacerations. Residents also faced prolonged exposure to unsafe structures, debris, downed utilities, power outages, water advisories, displacement, and the stress of

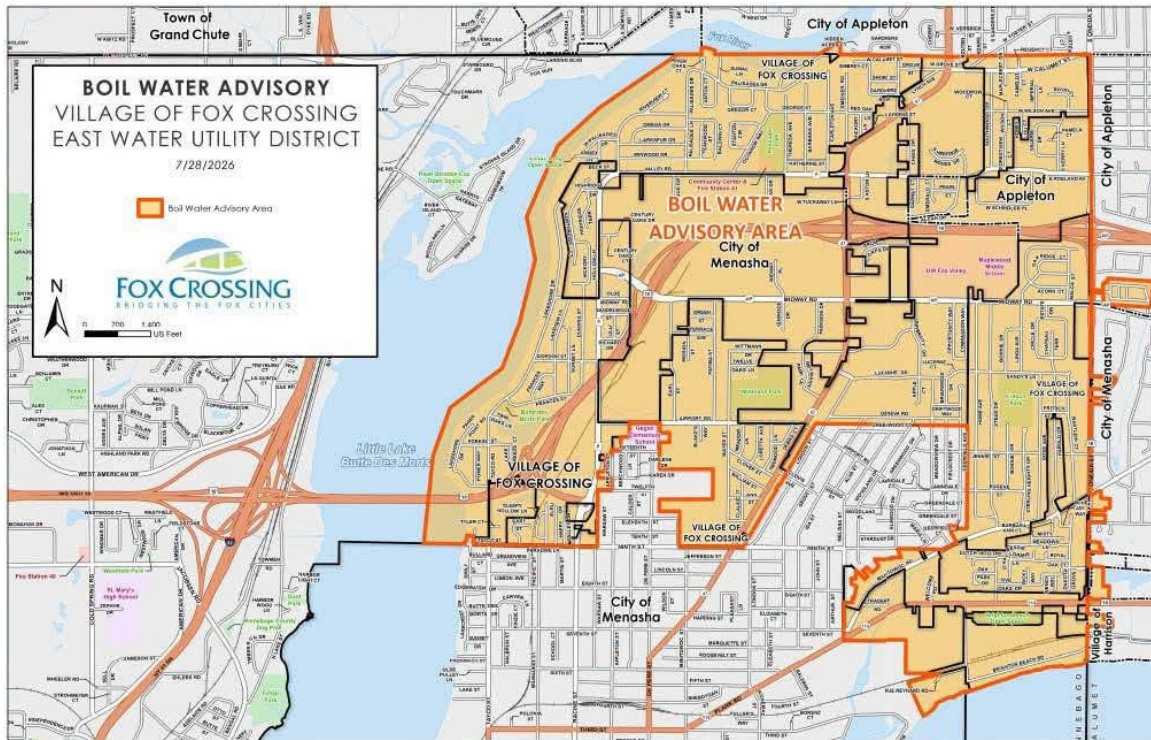
uncertain housing and employment.

The disaster placed an extraordinary burden on emergency responders and local governments. More than 70 fire apparatus responded through mutual aid, with some resources traveling approximately 90 minutes to assist the City of Menasha. Fire and rescue operations continued for approximately 28 hours—roughly a month's worth of calls compressed into a single response period. Menasha police responded to 212 calls in the first 12 hours, a 316% increase over the comparable period the prior year, and 714 calls during the following week, an 111% increase. The department incurred more than 713 hours of overtime in the three weeks following the tornado. Across the county, personnel from fire, law enforcement, public works, utilities, emergency management, public health, and other departments were diverted from normal responsibilities for an extended recovery effort.

Transportation and public infrastructure were also severely affected. In Menasha, approximately 40% of intersection control devices were damaged or missing, while major corridors were blocked by trees, power lines, structural debris, and vehicles. Two critical intersections remained inoperable for approximately two weeks. Extensive damage to sidewalks, curbs, terraces, roads, and other public infrastructure compounded the difficulty of restoring access and essential services. In the Village of Fox Crossing, there were no immediate roadway failures, however there may be long-term impacts as heavy equipment vehicles from private and municipal contractors have been using local roads that were not designed to accommodate that type of traffic.



Workers remove debris that is blocking a road in Menasha on Doty Island. Courtesy: WDJT.



Map of Boil Water Advisory issued after tornado. Courtesy: Winnebago County.

The tornado also struck the systems that communities depend on to function. Menasha's water treatment facility and high-lift pumping station remain out of service, requiring the city to rely on the City of Neenah for potable water while the facility is assessed and restored. The Village of Fox Crossing also lost power to one water plant, which was restored a day later. The tornado also caused damage to several large businesses' private lines that connected to the Fox Crossing's East Side Water Distribution system. This resulted in the storage facilities to drain and the system lost pressure. As a result, a boil-water advisory was in effect for five days until the East Side system was reloaded and pressure was restored.

Approximately 70% of Menasha Utilities customers initially lost electricity, and an estimated 200 utility poles were damaged or destroyed. Power was not restored to the entire City of Menasha until August 6. More than 14,000 residents in Fox Crossing were without power for much of the week. Fox Crossing also lost one of its two fire stations, three apparatus, and its backup Emergency Operations Center.

The tornado disrupted education and transportation in the month leading up to a new school year. Gegan Elementary School sustained severe damage and cannot open for the 2026–27 school year, requiring students and staff to be relocated and creating impacts to classroom capacity, transportation, staffing, and educational continuity. Lamers Bus Lines' Menasha facility was destroyed, with 50 school buses destroyed and another 130 damaged,



Apparatus damaged and fire station destroyed in Fox Crossing. Courtesy: Fox Crossing Fire Department.



Damage to Lamers Bus Lines in Menasha.

businesses—including WOW Logistics, Miron Construction, Mativ Holdings, Intertape Polymer Group (IPG), Waste Management, and others—suffered catastrophic or substantial damage. WOW Logistics' distribution facility was destroyed, affecting more than 90 jobs, while Mativ Holdings estimated a \$50 to \$100 million economic impact from inventory destroyed at the facility. Long-established locally owned businesses, including Manderfield's Bakery, were destroyed. The tornado also forced 104 retail food establishments to temporarily close in the City of Menasha, primarily because of power outages and water-related restrictions; some remained closed for as long as 10 days, while others sustained damage beyond repair. In total, numerous manufacturing, industrial, retail, transportation, and service businesses were forced to close or substantially curtail operations, threatening household income, regional supply chains, the local tax base, and the long-term economic vitality of the community.

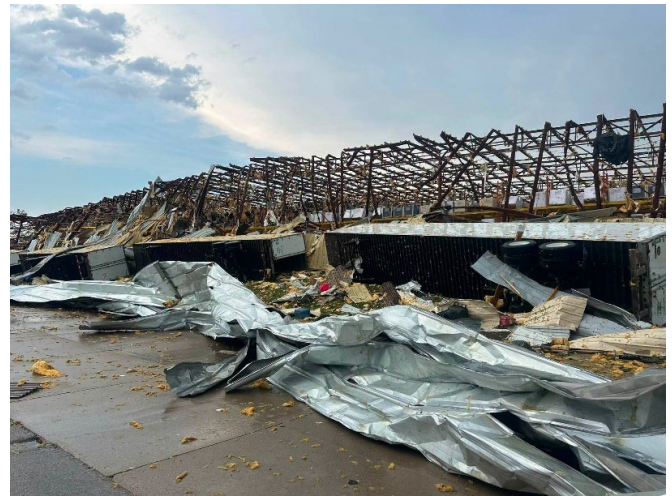
Residents turned to 211 in unprecedented numbers: from July 27 through August 1, calls for assistance increased to 438, compared with 195 during the preceding week. Disaster-related 211 contacts included hundreds of requests involving housing, food, utilities, income assistance, health care, mental health, and substance-use services.



Building debris piled outside damaged home in Menasha.

creating an additional challenge for school transportation. Valley Transit routes were disrupted, affecting access to employment, schools, health care, food, pharmacies, and other essential services—particularly for older adults, people with disabilities, and households without reliable vehicles.

The economic consequences extend well beyond damaged residential structures or infrastructure. Major employers and



WOW Logistics destroyed by tornado. Courtesy: Benjamin Destiche

In addition, the public works departments in Winnebago County are also facing strains. In the City of Menasha, it is estimated there are 600,000 cubic yards of vegetative and building debris. Thousands of mature trees were damaged or destroyed resulting in long-term impacts to shade cover, stormwater benefits, and environmental resources that will take decades to replace. In the City of Neenah, current planning estimates approximately 320,000 cubic yards of debris, which equals roughly 11.6 cubic yards per resident.

Recovery is further complicated by the timing of this disaster. Winnebago County communities were still dealing with the impacts of the April 2026 severe storms and flooding, which occurred only approximately three months before the tornado. The same governmental personnel, emergency-management systems, public works resources, community organizations, equipment, and financial reserves are now being called upon to respond to a second major disaster in a short period. This cumulative burden has significantly reduced the communities' ability to finance and manage recovery through ordinary means.

Communities throughout Winnebago County have responded with extraordinary cooperation, drawing on local governments, first responders, utilities, nonprofits, businesses, volunteers and mutual aid from across the region. While that response was able to carry the county through the response, it cannot fund the recovery these communities face. Without support from the federal government, disaster costs will fall disproportionately on affected families, businesses and local taxpayers and compete with the county and local ability to maintain essential services.

While there has been significant progress since July 27, the magnitude of work ahead requires a federal partnership equal to the scale of this disaster.



Damage to homes and City of Menasha Water Filtration Plant. Courtesy: WGBA.

Outagamie County

The Town of Grand Chute and a portion of the City of Appleton were on the direct tornado path on July 27, 2026. The storm caused widespread damage and placed extraordinary demands on emergency responders and local government. Although no fatalities were reported, 14 patients were transported to local hospitals on the first day, and 68 patients were ultimately treated by two area medical providers for injuries related to the incident.



Grand Chute apartment building was damaged by tornado on July 27.

More than 30 individuals and families were displaced in the Town of Grand Chute, with significant impacts at the Howard Johnson Hotel, which housed long-term tenants, and Spencer Village Apartments. Preliminary damage assessments identified 11 homes with major damage, 125 with minor damage, and 255 with affected damage.

Businesses—including Miller Electric, the Pierce Fulfillment Center, Foremost Farms, and Glass Nickel Pizza—also experienced significant impacts ranging from structural damage and power loss to hazardous-materials incidents and prolonged closures. Business disruption threatens employment, the local tax base, and the availability of essential goods and services.



Damage at Miller Electric in Appleton.

The county's infrastructure was also severely disrupted. The tornado caused wide-spread power outages – affecting up to 50,000 customers, with restoration in Appleton and Grand Chute taking three to four days. The loss of power affected critical communications, including the 222 Building in Appleton, where rooftop cellular equipment experienced a power disruption that degraded cellular coverage and reduced the reliability of using text messages during the critical first 48 hours.



WE Energies crews are working to restore power in Outagamie County. Courtesy: WE Energies.

Emergency management operations themselves were challenged by the power outages. Both the Outagamie County and City of Appleton Emergency Operations Centers operated on generator power for several days. The Town of Grand Chute experienced natural gas releases after uprooted trees damaged gas-line connections, creating additional hazards for residents and first responders. The scale of utility disruptions overwhelmed normal response capacity and contributed to delays in restoration.

The tornado placed extraordinary pressure on the county's emergency communications dispatchers with high call volumes. During the first hour alone, Outagamie County Dispatch handled 741 calls for service. An additional 929 calls were received during the next two hours, while dispatchers processed 3,770 radio transmissions. Additional personnel had to be brought in to assist with taking calls, triage power outage reports, and coordinate with WE Energies. Grand Chute Police and Fire also activated additional personnel, while neighboring jurisdictions provided essential mutual aid for fire, law enforcement, EMS, public works, damage assessment, and planning operations.

Public health and safety were further compromised by damage to the Fox Crossing water treatment system. There was a significant loss of water pressure which created the potential for contamination of the public drinking-water system serving portions of the City of Appleton and neighboring Winnebago County. A precautionary boil-water advisory remained in effect for five days, affecting residents, businesses, healthcare facilities, and

other critical services. Heritage Peabody Nursing Home, which serves approximately 250 residents, was without power and water for three days, prompting contingency planning for possible relocation if services could not be restored.

With an existing shortage of safe, affordable housing in the Fox Valley region, displaced households face the possibility of prolonged temporary housing or relocation outside the communities they lived in prior to the tornado. This could disrupt family support networks, children's schooling, employment, and access to essential services. Prolonged displacement could lead to increased homelessness and increase additional pressure on shelters, housing providers, and human-services agencies.

The tornado also exposed significant equity and accessibility challenges. Residents with disabilities, damaged or destroyed vehicles, and limited transportation faced difficulty reaching assistance and donation sites. Non-English-speaking residents required interpretation and translated information to ensure equitable access to emergency alerts, public-health guidance, recovery programs, and safety information. Continued transportation, outreach, translation, and case-management services are essential to ensure that recovery assistance reaches all survivors—not only those able to navigate the recovery system independently.

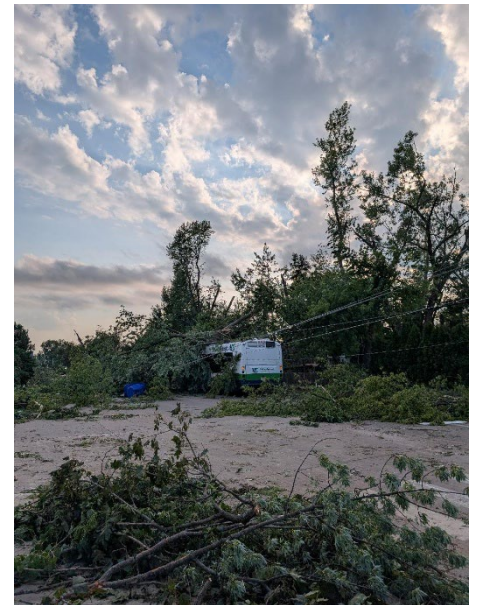


Photo of Valley Transit bus with tree debris and power lines on it after July 27 tornado.



Fallen tree after July 27 tornado in Appleton.

normally be years' worth of material. This sustained workload reduces the capacity of the public works department to address ordinary community needs.

However, the recovery burden extends well beyond the initial emergency. Public Works crews continue to defer routine maintenance and scheduled projects while clearing debris from roadways, rights-of-way, parks, and other public areas. In the City of Appleton, as of August 17, 7,000 cubic yards – roughly 466 dump truck loads- of material were delivered to just one of the city's two yard waste sites, along with 1,500 cubic yards of logs. This amount that would

Most importantly, the tornado occurred after Outagamie County had already endured two major disasters within the preceding five months. A historic March 2026 winter storm produced 27.5 inches of snow in Appleton, stranded more than 160 motorists, disrupted schools and businesses, and led 11 municipalities to seek reimbursement for public infrastructure damages through the Wisconsin Disaster Fund. In April, severe flooding affected northwestern Outagamie County, prompting an emergency declaration and ultimately resulting in federal Individual and Public Assistance for Outagamie County and neighboring counties.



Snapped power pole after tornado in Appleton.

The cumulative effect of three major disasters in five months has placed extraordinary and sustained demands on Outagamie County's Emergency Management, emergency operations, community emergency response volunteers, highway, parks, recycling and solid waste, public safety agencies, and other departments. Personnel have worked extended hours while delaying routine responsibilities and planned projects. The repeated disasters have also generated substantial unanticipated costs for staffing, equipment, debris management, and other operations, placing additional pressure on already strained local government resources.

The July 27 tornado represents a disaster of both immediate severity and prolonged disruption. Although the community has demonstrated remarkable resilience through the response of first responders, local governments, healthcare providers, businesses, nonprofits, volunteers, and residents, resilience should not be mistaken for unlimited capacity. Continued debris removal, housing stabilization, infrastructure repair, business recovery, public-health protection, accessible services, behavioral-health support, and restoration of normal government operations will require significant resources long after the initial emergency has passed.

Given the magnitude of the damage, the disruption of critical infrastructure, the displacement of residents, the continuing recovery workload, the economic impacts, and the unprecedented cumulative burden of three disasters in five months, Outagamie County will need further assistance beyond the resources they can provide. Additional assistance is essential to protect residents, restore critical services, stabilize displaced households, support local businesses, prevent further deterioration of community capacity, and enable the region to recover fully rather than simply absorb the costs of another major disaster.

Vilas County

Severe storms caused significant impacts across Vilas County, with multiple communities reporting downed trees, blocked roads, damaged homes, widespread power outages and hazardous conditions.



Home in Town of Washington in Vilas County was destroyed during July 27 storms.

Throughout the county, a preliminary damage assessment found two homes destroyed, nine homes with major damage, four homes with minor damage and two that were affected. At one point during the storms, there was a report of an elderly woman trapped in her basement after a tree fell on her home.

Several roads, many of which were main thoroughfares in the county were impassable because of downed trees or downed powerlines. These blockages cut off critical routes, isolating communities and severely hindering emergency response efforts.

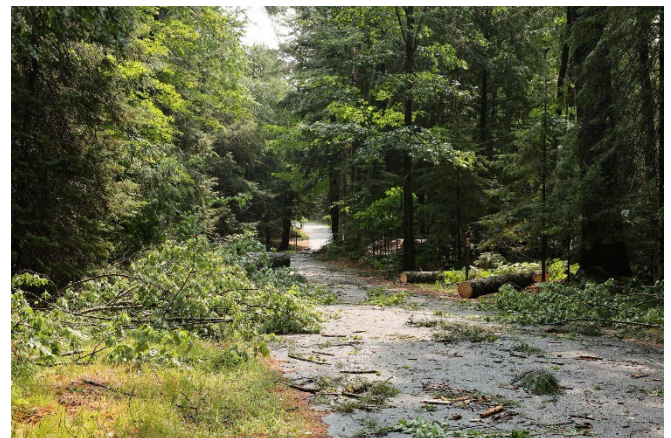
Several youth camps were hit hard. Trees fell onto buildings, live wires ended up across cabins forcing some camps to relocate children to other sites for their safety. In addition to building damages, zip lines and archery ranges were destroyed.

Roughly 2,000 customers were without power from the storms, that number was reduced to 450 two days later.

The Towns of Cloverland, Land O' Lakes, and Lincoln declared municipal disasters, and a county emergency was declared. The City of Eagle River has also experienced significant impacts, including breaks of its municipal utility poles and lines. City parks also sustained damage with structures compromised and many downed trees.

The Town of Cloverland's internet provider suffered catastrophic tower damage from the wind, forcing the entire structure to be torn down. Residents were completely cut off from internet service, creating significant disruptions to daily life. The outage also knocked out the town hall's backup system, leaving the community without a crucial lifeline.

These widespread damages underscore the severity of the storm and the urgent need for assistance.



Tree debris scattered across roadway in Vilas County. Courtesy: Michelle Drew.

State Agency Response

The following information outlines the state resources that have been used to respond to the storm damage from the July 27 storms across Wisconsin.

The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was operating at Level 3 – Expanded Monitoring and Support for DR-4923 at the time of this event, and staff assigned to the SEOC at the time supported both the recovery operations for DR-4923 as well as the response to the July 27 storms. The SEOC demobilized on August 18 for this event (but remained open to support DR-4923).

Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM)



WEM East Central Region Director instructing initial damage assessment teams in Winnebago County.

Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) staff supported the flood / storm response in the SEOC with approximately 35 personnel over 20 operational periods. In addition to staffing the SEOC, WEM deployed personnel directly to the field to support local response and recovery efforts. WEM field staff deployed to the hardest-hit counties to provide technical assistance to county emergency management directors and elected officials and support initial damage assessments.

WEM staff in the SEOC coordinated resource requests from counties during the incident, including a request for building inspectors, safety equipment for damage assessment volunteers, and Wisconsin National Guard assets to assist with debris removal/clearance and access restoration operations. WEM's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) staff provided up-to-date maps and just-in-time training for damage assessments. WEM's Public Information Officer (PIO) shared information with counties, municipalities, state agencies, and the 2-1-1 program through a Joint Information System. WEM PIO also monitored media reports, issued press releases, posted safety information on social media, and incident reports.

WEM staff also served as Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (JPDA) team members, accompanying Federal Emergency Management Agency, Small Business Administration, county, and local officials in the field validating initial Individual Assistance and Public Assistance damage assessment reports.



WEM staff conducting preliminary damage assessments.

Air Coordination Group (ACG)

The Wisconsin Air Operations Branch in the SEOC utilizes the Air Coordination Group (ACG) to facilitate the planning and execution of air support to joint, multi-agency response forces in the field. State aviation assets from the ACG collected high resolution photos and videos to provide situational awareness, support for planning response and recovery efforts, and damage assessments. This group consists of staff members from the Wisconsin Drone Network, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Civil Air Patrol (CAP), Wisconsin State Patrol (WSP), Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM), and the Wisconsin National Guard.

The following is a summary of the work conducted by the SEOC Air Operations Branch, the ACG, and WEM GIS personnel in response to the recent severe weather event:

- 120 WEM GIS staff hours
- 1 ACG damage assessment flight maps, image sharing mapping application, 97 geotagged images
- 5 Governor tour maps
- Disaster declaration statewide maps depicting county demographics (median household income, percent population with disability, percent population over 65 years old, percent population rural, latest unemployment rate, and total population)
- WEM damage assessment survey management for 4 counties.
- Technical support for 4 counties and one tribal nation for the use of GIS tools for damage assessments
- WEM Damage Assessment Dashboard management for the SEOC and county and tribal partners
- Data management for 2,117 damage assessment surveys and 2gb of damage images
- One web mapping application for Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment planning
- Created and shared separate data layers for two counties depicting Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment Targets.
- Data management and submission of 1,187 damage assessments to FEMA for Virtual Preliminary Damage Assessments
- WisDOT/WSP had 3.1 hours of flight time supporting damage assessment imagery and providing an initial assessment video feed over Appleton and Menasha.

Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA)

Immediately after learning of the damaging storm, DOA continuity staff coordinated with DOA leadership and stood up a conference call with state agency partners with offices located in the region where the storms had occurred. No immediate impacts to state agency business were reported.

DOA's Bureau of State Risk Management (BSRM) provides technical assistance to state agencies and the University of Wisconsin on procedures to address any potential asset losses. BSRM instructed state agencies to notify our office with any reports of auto or property damage immediately following the events of July 27. BSRM will increase involvement, if necessary, based on reporting of any yet to be known damage, however damage to state owned assets is currently limited to one vehicle (hail) in Oshkosh, and some minor water intrusion at buildings in Union Grove.

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP)

DATCP's Division of Trade and Consumer Protection staff are investigating any claims of violations to Wisconsin's price gouging law that are received following the Executive Order declared by the governor. The executive order certified that Outagamie, Winnebago, Forest and Vilas counties are in a Period of Abnormal Economic Disruption, which triggered enforcement of Wisconsin's Price Gouging Statute.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) worked with county highway commissioners to assess damage to federal and state roads, culverts, and bridges. Wind speeds exceeded the levels the sign structures were originally designed to withstand. Detailed inspections are underway to assess how this may have affected their condition and lifespan. 30 visual inspections were completed, and 10 more detailed inspections were completed for sign structures in Winnebago and Calumet Counties.

WisDOT representatives coordinated with county highway staff to provide barricades, signs, portable message boards, and other resources to close portions of STH 441, USH 10, STH 47, and STH 147 for ½ a day to 2 days, depending on the route. Those same routes required debris cleanup. Several damaged ground-mounted signs were replaced along STH 441, USH 10, STH 47, and STH 114.

WisDOT electricians responded to calls for service at signals that were not operating. 15 intersections were without power in the Fox Valley. 6 generators were deployed and as intersections regained power, generators were moved to the remaining intersections. Several signal bases and signal heads were repaired. Numerous ramp gates were repaired that had blown over. WisDOT's electricians worked many hours of overtime to ensure signalized intersections were functioning as safe and efficient as possible.

511 Wisconsin provided information on road conditions, road closures, and recommended detour routes. WisDOT also provided information to the public on the status of road closures.

WisDOT's Division of State Patrol responded to the immediate aftermath of the tornado along US 10 / WIS 441 and surrounding roadways. State Patrol personnel investigated multiple crashes, responded to debris fields on the highways, and assisted motorists with disabled vehicles.

The Division of State Patrol also assisted the Appleton Police Department and Menasha Police Department with traffic control and the closure of streets and highways. State Patrol officers provided additional patrols in the City of Menasha during overnight curfews and assisted with security at donation and resource centers located at UW Oshkosh-Fox Cities. State Patrol supervisors staffed the Menasha Emergency Operations Center throughout the response. The State Patrol remained assigned to the incident until August 6, 2026, when personnel were demobilized following the conclusion of the agency's operational support.

WisDOT and the Division of State Patrol also provided in-person staffing for the SEOC throughout the initial elevation.

Department of Children and Families (DCF)

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) provided five staff members to support Multi-Agency Resource Centers in Outagamie and Winnebago counties between August 4-8. The staff provided information to affected individuals and assisted with applications to the Emergency Assistance and Wisconsin Works programs.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

The Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) response reflects the scale of damage across the Fox Cities region: a municipal water treatment plant is expected to remain offline for a year or more, a multi-day boil water advisory affecting four communities was issued, extensive debris and infrastructure damage was noted along the Fox River and Lake Winnebago, and a hazardous materials event occurred at a damaged industrial facility. DNR staff time was committed continuously from July 27 through at least August 11, 2026, with technical assistance to affected utilities and municipalities ongoing.

The following impacts were noted in various areas of DNR responsibility:

Drinking Water and Groundwater

- DNR received an initial report at 1:07 p.m. on July 27 that the Menasha Utilities surface water treatment plant took a direct tornado hit, lost sections of its roof, and went inoperable. DNR provided real-time technical assistance as Menasha and Fox Crossing Utilities East executed emergency interconnections and generator power to restore service.
- DNR supported Fox Crossing Utilities East through a full loss of distribution system pressure and a boil water advisory affecting Fox Crossing, Menasha, Appleton, and Harrison. The advisory was lifted on August 1 after two rounds of clean samples.
- DNR continues to provide technical assistance to both utilities; Menasha's treatment plant, high-lift pump station, and clear well sustained extensive damage and are not expected to return to service for at least one year.
- Four DNR staff contributed approximately 35 hours from July 27 through August 11 to support affected jurisdictions.

Wastewater / Water Quality

- DNR provided daily permitting, compliance, and real-time water-quality monitoring guidance (two staff, 1–2 hours/day) to the Fox West Regional Sewerage Commission and Neenah-Menasha Sewerage Commission, between July 27-31 while facilities operated on reduced power.
- The Neenah-Menasha Sewerage Commission required a second backup generator after one of its two main power feeds was damaged.

Waste and Materials Management

- DNR provided emergency technical assistance and permitting guidance to a solid waste transfer station destroyed in the storm (two staff, approximately 4 hours). The site was ultimately closed due to access issues.

- DNR issued fee-exemption guidance to municipal landfills statewide for disposal of emergency-declared storm debris and coordinated directly with the Cities of Menasha, Fox Crossing, and Neenah and the Town of Neenah on debris management.
- DNR responded to a hazardous waste emergency notification from Miller Electric (Outagamie County). Tornado damage required draining and disposal of resin tanks under the 72-hour unplanned-event notification process.

Air Management

- DNR provided asbestos National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) compliance guidance to building departments in Fox Crossing, Menasha, and Neenah, and the Menasha Health Department for contractors performing emergency demolition and renovation work. DNR anticipates an increase in demolition and renovation notifications as cleanup continues.
- DNR advised a permitted air source on portable emergency generator requirements during the power outage.

Conservation Warden / Law Enforcement Support

- DNR deployed wardens and officers on July 27 for resident welfare checks and gas/power hazard assessments, traffic control, and lakeshore evacuations by boat.
- DNR conducted boat-based debris and sunken-vessel assessments of the Fox River and Lake Winnebago shorelines on July 30 and was represented at the Incident Command meeting.
- DNR coordinated public safety messaging on navigation hazards and worked with Neenah, the Town of Neenah, Menasha, and Fox Crossing on removal of trees and debris below the ordinary high-water mark on July 31.

Wisconsin National Guard (WING)



Guardsman with the Wisconsin National Guard helping to direct traffic in Menasha.

On July 28, Governor Evers signed Executive Order #300 authorizing The Adjutant General (TAG) to call Wisconsin National Guard (WING) servicemembers to state active duty.

On July 29, Winnebago County submitted a resource request to WEM via WebEOC requesting WING support for debris removal/clearance and access restoration operations within the City of Menasha, Town of Neenah and Village of Fox Crossing. WING Director of Domestic Operations, Deputy and Future operations (J3, DJ3, J35) traveled to the area on July 30 to conduct ground reconnaissance and accompany Deputy

Adjutant General-Army in meeting with local officials. WING conducted a crisis action planning group on July 30 and activated an initial response of 15 personnel for traffic management plus five additional command, control and sustainment personnel. This task force reported to the Oshkosh Armory on July 30 and deployed on July 31 in support of

local officials in the town of Menasha. The task force operated state fleet vans for transportation around the impacted area and lodged at UW-Oshkosh dormitories due to lack of consolidated availability in local hotels.

On August 1, Winnebago County emergency management requested additional personnel to support traffic management. WING activated an additional 25 personnel for the period of August 1-10 to assist with traffic control, debris clearance, and welfare checks in response to the tornado that impacted Winnebago communities of City of Neenah, City of Menasha, Village of Fox Crossing, and the Town of Neenah.

On August 7, WING leaders again visited the operational area for an on-ground assessment. Winnebago County submitted a Request for Assistance (RFA) for 32 personnel plus command and control, plus two to four military tactical vehicles to support traffic management, from a period of August 10-16. WING mobilized this force and conducted a relief in place of the previous mission personnel on August 9 and resumed operations on August 10 supporting traffic control within the City of Menasha, Town of Neenah, and Village of Fox Crossing.

On August 13, WING participated in a coordination call with Winnebago County Emergency Management. Local officials determined that WING traffic control assistance in Neenah would no longer be required after the end of the August 13 operational period. Remaining requirements were scheduled to be concluded on August 14. Winnebago County Emergency Management updated the RFA end date to August 14 via WebEOC.

On August 14, all remaining WING traffic control assistance requirements were successfully completed with two-way traffic restored by the end of the operational period. On August 15, WING personnel completed final closeout and recovery operations with the mission officially concluded for all 37 personnel.

Department of Health Services (WI DHS)

Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WI DHS) reviewed the near real-time emergency department visit data in ESSENCE (Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics) from the Center for Disease Control's National Syndromic Surveillance Program. The data were searched for emergency department visits with injuries, power outages, mentions of the word "tornado", and other health issues.

WI DHS supported Winnebago, Calumet, Outagamie County health departments by creating queries and dashboards allowing their direct review of information in near real-time. WI DHS also monitored impacts to regional hospital capacity and contacted impacted Health Officers to inquire about unmet needs and any public health concerns.

Due to the FoodShare benefits lost and following power outages during the incident, WI DHS extended the deadline for FoodShare benefits lost for residents the impacted communities ending August 17. This was communicated through the Disaster Distress Hotline as well as safety tips for power outages, and safety during storm clean up.

WI DHS Area Administration and the Office of Policy and Practice Alignment regional directors established communications to impacted Human Services and Public Health

Departments to determine whether there were any unmet needs that WI DHS could assist with.

Wisconsin Department of Tourism

Calls were placed to tourism partners in Fox Cities, Green Bay, Oshkosh, and Calumet County to inquire about the impacts of the tornado:

- Fox Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau coordinated with local hotels to secure all available lodging for displaced residents.
- Visit Green Bay also coordinated with local hotels in the Green Bay market to secure reduced rate lodging for displaced residents in the region.
- Several businesses (including restaurants) were noted to be damaged and closed because of the July 27 event.

Voluntary Agency Response

Although state and local agencies rapidly mobilized an extraordinary response, the scale and complexity of the disaster pushed government, nonprofit, faith-based and volunteer organizations to or beyond operational capacity. Significant unmet needs remain in the Fox Valley, demonstrating the need for sustained federal assistance to help communities recover.



Spontaneous volunteers check in and processed at the Volunteer Reception Center.

Immediately following the storm, Volunteer Fox Cities activated a Volunteer Coordination and Assignment Center and processed more than 6,000 spontaneous volunteers with full credentialing, safety briefings, and controlled mission assignments to support debris removal, supply distribution, and survivor assistance. This unprecedented volunteer surge demonstrates not only the strength of the community and surrounding area response but also shows the magnitude of demand that exceeded existing local infrastructure.

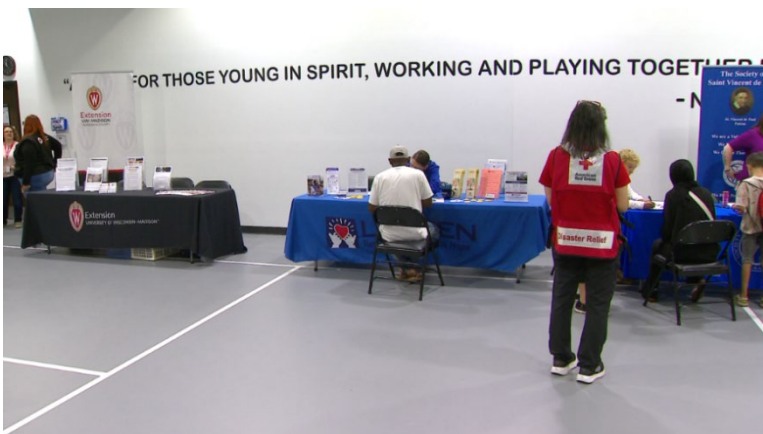
United Way of Fox Cities utilized 211 as the primary intake and routing system for survivor needs, documenting more than 610 total damage reports across activated counties, with real-time dispatching of volunteers, food, and supplies. All survivors who submitted damage reports to 211 received outreach. Major household needs included debris removal, food delivery, and housing assistance for residents experiencing prolonged power outages and temporary displacement.

The American Red Cross provided 229 overnight shelter stays across three emergency shelters, completed approximately 2,000 residential damage assessments, distributed more than 2,935 comfort and cleanup kits, served 2,026 meals and snacks, and deployed more than 140 trained disaster response and recovery personnel. Mercy Chefs provided approximately 2,400–2,700 meals per day, exceeding 21,600 meals over a 10-day period. Churches and faith-based organizations supplemented formal response operations by providing cooling centers, food distribution, volunteer support, and spiritual care.



American Red Cross of Wisconsin members assisting Menasha tornado survivor.

Team Rubicon deployed 30 personnel to conduct chainsaw operations, debris removal, roof tarping, and emergency home repairs. Its incident command operated from Appleton East High School and coordinated with United Way, local public works, and Wisconsin Emergency Management. Despite one of the fastest curbside debris-removal efforts observed by local public works, substantial debris remains in heavily impacted neighborhoods, requiring continued operations and additional heavy-equipment capacity.



Multi-Agency Resource Center in Appleton served disaster survivors. Courtesy: WLUK.

Multi-Agency Resource Centers (MARCs) were established rapidly to provide coordinated case management and connect survivors with state, and nonprofit resources across affected Fox Cities communities. Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) partners have begun developing a Long-Term Recovery Committee and resource-capability matrix. However, limited funding, staffing, and survivor case-tracking capacity continue to constrain recovery. Wisconsin United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and Lutheran Disaster Response are

expanding disaster case-management capabilities, but high statewide caseloads further demonstrate the limited capacity available to support survivors over the long term.

Donation centers and Points of Distribution were set up throughout affected areas to receive and distribute donations. Donations included water, food, buckets, generators, paper products, and childcare needs. More than 1,000 pallets of items were distributed into the community.

The combination of thousands of volunteers, hundreds of documented survivor needs, extensive residential damage, sheltering and feeding operations, and rapidly developing long-term case-management systems demonstrates a disaster response that has already stretched local and state resources to their limits. Community organizations have provided extraordinary assistance, but their capacity is not sufficient to sustain recovery at the scale required.



Relief pop-up site in Menasha for tornado survivors.

Sustained federal assistance will be necessary to address remaining needs in housing stabilization, debris removal, legal services, disaster case management, food and basic-needs assistance, and long-term recovery coordination. Federal support will enable local governments and voluntary agencies to move beyond immediate response, restore housing and economic stability, assist the most vulnerable survivors, and rebuild the Fox Cities' long-term resilience.

24-Month Disaster History

Unfortunately, this is not the only recent event to draw on the resources and capacity of the state and its counties. In the previous 24 months, the State of Wisconsin, including many of these same counties, has been impacted by a number of events that have required resources from the State and one or more counties.

Severe storms and flooding in August 2025, in particular, caused impacts from which the state is still recovering. I requested a federal disaster declaration for Individual Assistance and Public Assistance following record-breaking rain from August 9 – 12, 2025. My request included Milwaukee, Washington, and Waukesha counties for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Individual Assistance and Public Assistance; and Door, Grant, and Ozaukee counties for Public Assistance only.

DR-4892 was declared for Individual Assistance on September 11, 2025. As of this writing, more than 46,524 individuals have registered with FEMA, resulting in \$223,695,910 going to residents affected by this disaster. This historic flood was FEMA's most expensive disaster in 2025 in funding paid, exceeding the catastrophic wildfires in southern California.

After conducting joint PDAs for Public Assistance, the state and FEMA were able to validate \$26.5 million in damages. This information was included in my request letter sent to the President for review. Public Assistance was denied under disaster declaration FEMA-4892-DR. A second joint PDA was conducted, validating an additional \$1 million dollars and I appealed the denial decision on November 18, 2025. Unfortunately, my appeal for Public Assistance was denied on February 7, 2026.

Severe storms and flooding occurred in April 2026, causing impacts which the state is still recovering from. I requested a federal disaster declaration for Individual Assistance and Public Assistance for the severe flooding from April 13 – 23, 2026. My request included

Bayfield, Brown, Buffalo, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, Manitowoc, Marathon, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Racine, Rock, Sauk, Vernon, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca, Winnebago and Oneida Nation for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Individual Assistance; and Bayfield, Iowa, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marathon, Outagamie, Racine, Rock, Sauk, Vernon and Waupaca counties for Public Assistance.

DR-4923 was declared for Individual and Public Assistance on June 30, 2026. Included in this declaration were Bayfield, Brown, Buffalo, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, Manitowoc, Marathon, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Racine, Rock, Sauk, Vernon, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca, Winnebago Counties and the Oneida Nation for Individual Assistance; and Iowa, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, Kewaunee, Outagamie, Rock, Vernon, Waupaca counties and the Oneida Nation for Public Assistance.

As of August 21, more than 22,000 disaster survivors of the April 13-23, 2026, storms and flooding have received \$63,193,039.

Racine County submitted an appeal request for Public Assistance on August 07, 2026. The appeal request included \$975,000 in public infrastructure damages. The appeal request was granted on August 17, 2026.

In addition, in the past two years, local applicants reached the federal damage indicator on 25 separate occasions (\$4.72 per capita for Federal Fiscal Year 2025 and \$4.86 per capita for Federal Fiscal Year 2026), making them eligible to receive assistance from the Wisconsin Disaster Fund, the State's assistance program that provides reimbursement to local governments and electric cooperatives for debris removal, emergency protective services, and damage to roads and bridges. These incidents are listed in the table below.

Date	Counties/Tribes	Event Type
7/13-07/15/2024	Buffalo, Crawford, Grant, Juneau, Marathon, Monroe, Rock, Sauk	Flood
8/15/2024	Iron	Flood
8/26-08/30/2024	Barron, Kewaunee, St. Croix, Washburn	Flood/Storm
9/21/2024	Crawford, Grant	Flood
3/14/2025	Jefferson	Wind/Storm
3/19/2025	Door, Florence, Forest, Langlade, Marathon, Marinette, Oneida, Price, Vilas; Forest County Potawatomi, Sokaogon Chippewa Community	Winter Storm/Wind
4/28/2025	Barron, Polk, Shawano	Tornado/Wind
5/15/2025	Chippewa, Clark, Dodge, Racine, St. Croix	Tornado/Wind
6/19-06/30/2025	Clark, Pepin, Price, Sauk, Wood	Flood/Storm
7/3-07/9/2025	Dunn, Marinette	Flood/Wind

Date	Counties/Tribes	Event Type
7/11/2025	Grant	Flood
7/15- 07/19/2025	Bayfield, Dane, Marathon, Waushara; Lac du Flambeau Band	Flood/Tornado/ Wind
7/22- 07/30/2025	Menominee, St. Croix	Flood/Wind
8/09 – 8/18/2025	Buffalo, Columbia, Door, Grant, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Pierce, Sheboygan, Washington, Waukesha	Flooding/Wind
09/22- 09/23/2025	Crawford, Iron	Flooding/Storm
11/26 – 11/28/2025	Iron, Vilas, Washburn	Historic Snowfall, Wind
3/14- 3/16/2026	Adams, Brown, Buffalo, Calumet, Clark, Dodge, Door, Eau Claire, Florence, Fond du Lac, Forest, Jackson, Kewaunee, Langlade, Lincoln, Manitowoc, Marinette, Marathon, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Pepin, Portage, Shawano, Trempealeau, Washington, Waupaca, Winnebago, Wood; Forest County Potawatomi, Menominee Nation, Oneida Nation, Sokaogon Chippewa	Historic Snowfall
4/02- 4/07/2026	Adams, Iron, Marathon, Shawano, Waupaca	Flood/Wind/Winter Storm
4/09- 4/11/2026	Iron	Flooding
04/13- 04/23/2026	Adams, Bayfield, Brown, Buffalo, Calumet, Clark, Dane, Dodge, Door, Forest, Iowa, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marathon, Milwaukee, Oconto, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Sauk, Shawano, Trempealeau, Vernon, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca, Winnebago, Wood, Oneida Nation	Thunderstorm/ Tornadoes/ Flooding/Winds
06/10/2026	Dane, Iowa, Sauk	Thunderstorm/Wind/Flooding

Date	Counties/Tribes	Event Type
06/17-06/18/2026	Crawford, Dane, Iowa	Storm/Tornados
06/29-07/03/2026	Crawford, Walworth	Thunderstorm/Wind/Flooding
07/17/2026	Ashland	Severe Wind
07/27-07/28/2026	Forest, Oneida, Outagamie, Vilas, Winnebago	Tornado/Wind

Local Demographics

Wisconsin's total taxable resources as reported by the US Department of Treasury for 2022 (most recent available) were \$461.1 billion. Much of this data is presented visually in the supporting maps provided as Enclosure E.

Preliminary Damage Assessment

On August 7, 2026, I requested Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the Individual Assistance (IA) and Public Assistance (PA) programs. Virtual PDAs for IA in Forest, Outagamie, Vilas, and Winnebago counties started August 10 with field PDAs starting August 12 and culminating on August 14.

Individual Assistance

Please refer to Enclosure A (Individual Assistance) submitted with FEMA Form 010-0-13 for the complete dataset. For the four counties surveyed, the IA PDA validated a total of 84 destroyed homes, 412 with major damage, 1,331 with minor damage, and 519 categorized as affected. The following is a breakdown by county.

County	Affected	Minor	Major	Destroyed	Total
Forest	1	0	2	0	3
Outagamie	255	125	11	0	391
Vilas	2	4	9	2	17
Winnebago	261	1,202	390	82	1,937
Total	519	1,331	412	84	2,346

The results revealed that over 496 residential structures were destroyed or sustained major damage from the severe weather event with total damage costs estimated at over \$8.2 million. On average, 67.6% of people have insurance across the entire impacted locations. Due to the concentration of damages to homes, the short and long-term recovery will have a significant impact on the populations of Menasha and surrounding areas.

Public Assistance

On August 7, 2026, I requested Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the Individual Assistance (IA) and Public Assistance (PA) programs. Virtual and field PDAs for PA in Vilas and Winnebago counties started August 17 and culminated on August 21.

For the PA PDAs, the impacted counties are a combination of urban and rural agricultural areas. The information below is extracted from Table A-1 (Enclosure B) submitted with FEMA Form 010-0-13 for the complete dataset and warrant expansion. The PDA conducted to develop Table A-1 included the participation of 2 counties. Based on this information, the damage per capita for the State of Wisconsin amounts to \$2.35, of which 2 counties met or exceeded the county per capita. This amount of damage per capita exceeds the \$1.94 state threshold.

- **Winnebago County** –Winnebago County has reported the highest countywide damage per capita loss at \$77.31. Verified damage in Winnebago County currently amounts to \$13,275,743.91. Damages occurred in all categories of work, with the exception of category D, with more than \$10 million in category A.
- **Vilas County** – Verified damages in Vilas County currently amount to \$585,634.47, resulting in a high damage indicator of \$25.41 per capita. Vilas County had more than \$500,000 of their damage in category A and had verified damages categories A, E, and F.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Justification

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) can provide federal funds for long-term disaster mitigation in recently disaster impacted communities. The State of Wisconsin is requesting that the President authorize HMGP statewide for the July 27, 2026, severe storms and tornadoes. The National Institute of Building Sciences publication Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves: 2019 Report shows that for every federal dollar spent on wind mitigation five dollars are saved in future wind damages. Capitalizing on hazard mitigation is an unequivocally sensible investment.

Over 2,300 structures were impacted during this severe storm and tornado event. For homes and structures that are destroyed or have major damage, meaning the structure is uninhabitable or unusable, housing assistance through FEMA's Individual Assistance (IA) program is capped at \$42,500 per household. For households that do not have insurance, this will not come close to meeting the needs of the survivors. Investing in high wind and tornado mitigation measures, such as structure reinforcement and mobile home tie-downs, power line burial, community and residential tornado safe rooms, and backup power generators, provides an opportunity to avoid future loss of life, eliminate repetitive, expensive damages, and ensure continuity of operations for critical facilities which is essential for local disaster response.

For high wind events and tornados, safe rooms provide near-absolute lifesaving protection. In Wisconsin, 49 tornado safe rooms have been installed or constructed across the state, with several more underway. Wisconsin developed a Residential Safe Room Rebate program in 2022, and it kicked off with the pilot in 2024. With the initial round, three residential safe

rooms were installed with a combination of grant funding and out-of-pocket funding from residents. Currently, we have 26 households on the waiting list for the program. The April 2026 disaster included one of the most damaging tornado outbreaks the state has seen. HMGP funding was denied for that event. The July tornado event was significantly more damaging, and the state desperately needs HMGP funding to aid in recovery and to reduce or eliminate the future risk from high wind and tornado events. This funding will allow WEM to continue our lifesaving residential tornado safe room rebate program as well as explore additional risk reduction projects.

Previous Success

Bayfield Electric Cooperative

Since record keeping began on the current electrical system, in 2014, customers of Bayfield Electric Cooperative (BEC) had seen hours to days of outages every year due to natural hazards including tornadoes, high winds, flooding (compromising power poles), heavy snow, and ice storms. There were also numerous outages due to animal interference with the lines and natural decay of trees. In 2018, BEC received Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding to bury three stretches of the most vulnerable power lines in the county. Since then, power outages in those areas have been minimal. In this event, which impacted rural areas with dense tree cover, exposed stretches of power line led to widespread power outages. Powerline burial should be considered for future disaster cost reduction.

Tornado Safe Rooms

Wisconsin Emergency Management has funded community tornado safe rooms in a variety of locations around the state, including in Bayfield, Clark, Eau Claire, Marathon, Menominee, Polk, St. Croix, and Wood counties. These safe rooms have been built in mobile home parks, camping areas, and schools. They protect vulnerable populations whose homes may not withstand high winds or who are visiting the state. Safe room projects should be considered for hazard mitigation funding.

Wisconsin's Hazard Mitigation Program

Wisconsin is an Enhanced Plan state, meaning we have demonstrated that we have a robust statewide mitigation program involving federal, state, local, nonprofit, and private partners. We have also demonstrated strong grants management processes through annual reviews by FEMA as well as biennial in-depth grants monitoring. This has enabled a Program Administration by States (PAS) agreement between WEM and FEMA for the HMGP for every disaster declaration for over 10 years. This agreement allows WEM to take on certain program administration tasks, like approving demolition time extensions and hazard mitigation plan updates, to relieve FEMA of some of the burden. There is of course ample federal oversight written into the agreement to ensure WEM is meeting all requirements and responsibilities.

Wisconsin has two open disaster grants under the HMGP, one of which will be closed before the end of the federal fiscal year. None have open application periods. We also have five open Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) funding years, one of which is nearing closeout. The State of Wisconsin implements projects, draws down funds, and closes grants efficiently as shown in the tables below.

Open HMGP Disasters	First Project Obligation	Status
FEMA-4402-DR-WI	2020	In closeout
FEMA-4459-DR-WI	2021	Closed
FEMA-4477-DR-WI	2021	Closed
FEMA-4520-DR-WI (COVID)	2022	Application period closed; waiting for FEMA to award additional subgrants; 24 subgrants have already closed or are ready for closeout.

Open BRIC Funding Cycles	First Project Obligation	Status
BRIC FFY 2020	2021	Closeout submitted to FEMA 4/13/2026
BRIC FFY 2021	2022	Fully awarded; in progress; closeout starts 10/6/2027
BRIC FFY 2022	2023	Partially awarded; waiting for FEMA to approve additional awards; closeout starts 9/22/2026
BRIC FFY 2023	2024	Partially awarded; waiting for FEMA to approve additional awards; closeout starts 9/26/2027
BRIC FFY 2024/25	N/A	Applied for; waiting on FEMA's selections

Wisconsin has a strong statewide mitigation program that is well run and leverages all available funding and other resources to ensure benefits are maximized. Previous projects undertaken with federal funding have proven to be effective. The communities affected by the recent severe storms and floods desperately need additional federal assistance to have any hope of a full recovery and to reduce future risk from similar events. We are requesting the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the entire state of Wisconsin.

CONCLUSION

While the state has received federal assistance for two disasters within the past year, I emphasize that each disaster is different, and no communities experience it in the same way. The people and the communities impacted are different, and there is one thing these storms have in common with devastating storms and flooding that occurred in August 2025 and April of 2026 – for the people living through it, it is devastating.

We cannot measure disasters by only dollars, buildings, or affected infrastructure. We must measure and understand the human impact. Communities in four Wisconsin counties are navigating difficult decisions, limited resources, and the emotional weight of putting their lives back together.

I request that the Individual Assistance program be made available in Forest, Outagamie, Vilas, and Winnebago Counties.

I also request that the Public Assistance program be made available in Vilas and Winnebago Counties.

My final request is for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to be made available statewide. The state has an approved Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan.

I certify that for this major disaster, the state and local governments will assume all applicable non-federal shares of costs required by the Stafford Act.

I have designated Greg Engle as the State Coordinating Officer for this request.

In closing, I want to reaffirm the urgency of this request and emphasize the need to assist the survivors and communities as quickly as possible so critical infrastructure can be restored, emergency services to continue operating, and help families find stability and confidence as they recover and rebuild.

We cannot undo the devastation, and we cannot erase the loss felt by each person from this terrible storm. However, we can stand together and bring the resources and expertise of this nation to listen and help. Most importantly, we can remind those impacted by this disaster that they do not have to face the road to recovery alone.

I therefore respectfully request that you review this documentation and act quickly to declare a major disaster for the State of Wisconsin, so these communities rise from disaster and restore what was lost and build a more resilient future.

Sincerely,



Tony Evers
Governor

Enclosures

OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13

Enclosure A: Individual Assistance

Enclosure B: Public Assistance

Enclosure C: Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs

Enclosure E: Supporting Maps