

## **PORTAGE COUNTY**

### **For Immediate Release**

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Due to recent excessive snow melt, rain, frozen ground and warm temperatures, many areas in Portage County have experienced flooding. The county declared that emergency conditions exist, and it will seek assistance from the state to assist in the county's response to this situation.

Some surface water has receded today because of cooler temperatures and less precipitation. However, residents need to remain alert in the days and weeks to come. As the snow continues to melt, excessive amounts of flowing surface water may occur with little or no warning.

Portage County opened its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at the Sheriff's Office on Thursday, March 14, 2019. County EOC team members are working with the City of Stevens Point, Village of Plover, Village of Park Ridge, and other local municipalities to receive and provide information updates. The county is also working with municipalities to assist in responding to the situation and providing supplies.

For information, residents can visit the county's website as well as sites for those municipalities who have them.

The Villages of Plover and Park Ridge are experiencing lots of water over large areas. Crews in both municipalities are working to remove surface water from problem areas.

In Plover, residents can get sandbags at the Village Municipal Building Fire Department at 2400 Post Road, and sand for filling sandbags at the southeast corner of the public parking lot at the intersection of School Street and Post Road. Volunteers are assisting with this effort.

In Park Ridge, residents can get sand bagging material north of State Highway 10, west of Green Avenue, and just south of Odessa Court. Firefighters and resident volunteers are assisting.

County Highway Commissioner, Nathan Check, reports that the county highways are structurally good. However, there is water over the road in random, sporadic locations around the county. Motorists should take care in those areas and should obey any Road Closed signs. The county's website has a link to a map showing closed roads throughout the county.

County Highway Department crews were able to open up culvert ends and are assessing damage. As the water recedes, county highway conditions will be reassessed. Highway Department crews are working through the weekend.

The county received reports from many residents and businesses about property damage caused by water. At present, the best steps for property owners include notifying their insurance carriers to report the loss, and taking photos to document the damage. The county is in contact with state emergency management personnel and will provide further information when available. Property owners can also call 211 to talk with the United Way. The 211 call center personnel will gather information from callers for documentation.

Unless conditions change over the weekend, the county will provide an update on Monday, March 18, 2019. Anyone who needs assistance can contact the county's Communications Center at 715.346.1400.

Portage County Public Information Officer  
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Portage County Corporation Counsel