



MIKE LUKAS
Sheriff

OFFICE OF SHERIFF • PORTAGE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER • 1500 STRONGS AVE., STEVENS POINT, WI 54481 • 715-346-1400 • FAX 715-346-1591

News Release

Contact: Division of Emergency Management
Coordinator Bob Weinert
Phone: (715) 346-1437
Authorized: Same

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Update on Portage County Spring Thaw Flooding

The spring thaw event Portage County experienced in March is still an open incident at Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) and accordingly Portage County is still gathering information from residents and businesses. WEM has indicated the state is currently below the threshold for a Federal Individual Assistance declaration which could have provided assistance to homeowners. Examples of damage thresholds that could potentially qualify Portage County residents for direct Federal assistance would be having 25 homes or businesses sustain uninsured losses of 40 percent of the fair market value or having 582 homes in Wisconsin destroyed or suffering major damage. Homeowners can report significant damage to their homes by calling United Way's 2-1-1 phone line. The United Way may also be able to help connect affected residents with other services.

The Portage County Sheriff's Office Emergency Management Division has conducted damage assessments and has attempted to identify programs that could benefit individuals and families. It is unknown if any other funding sources will become available, and residents may only be eligible for certain types or a single source of assistance. Emergency Management has also been working with the villages of Plover and Park Ridge to assist with their application to the Wisconsin Disaster Fund.

One program that may be able to assist affected individuals that have low to moderate income is the Housing Rehabilitation Program through CAP Services. You can contact Mona Aubut at 715-343-7146 or maubut@capmail.com. Their website is <https://capservices.org/what-we-do/housing-transportation/rehab/>.

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation has an assistance program that may offer microloans for businesses. For more information, their website is: <https://wedc.org/programs-and-resources/disaster-recovery-microloan/>.

Flooding will be an ongoing concern for residents throughout the spring and summer. FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is encouraging Wisconsin residents to prepare for floods by investing in flood insurance. <https://www.floodsmart.gov/faqs> answers numerous questions on flood insurance including whether a homeowner's insurance policy covers flooding (it typically does not), or if you are eligible to obtain a policy.

The Village of Plover has made arrangements with Advanced Disposal to perform a one-day pickup of carpet and drywall that was damaged by areal flooding during the week of March 11, 2019. The flood damage pickup date will be April 11, 2019. In order to be eligible for this pickup, Village of Plover residents must call the Village of Plover Municipal Building at 715-345-5250. For more information please visit: <https://www.co.portage.wi.us/home/showdocument?id=24169>

For mental and emotional help and support, call 1-800-985-5990 or text TALK WITH US to 66746.

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