



Sheriff Curtis N. Fell
ROCK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
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Aaron K. Burdick
 Commander, Law Enforcement Services

"A Tradition of Service"

Kimberly A. Litsheim
 Commander, Correctional Services

**JOINT STATEMENT FROM ROCK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND ROCK COUNTY
 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REGARDING SEVERE WEATHER EVENT**

For Immediate Release

Date: 02/12/2024
 Case: SO2406291

Contact Person

Captain Mark Thompson
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UPDATE #6 02/12/2024 AT 4:30 PM:

Rock County Emergency Management continues to conduct damage assessments using the FEMA Damage Assessment Criteria. The most current information we have follows.

Total Number of Residences Impacted: 31

- Destroyed: 3
- Major: 10
- Minor: 11
- Affected: 7

The National Weather Service surveyed the affected area on February 9, 2024, and summarized their findings on their website at <https://www.weather.gov/mkx/FebruarySevereWeather>.

Electrical companies estimate 28 meters are still without power and anticipate restoring those connections over the next couple of days.

A media briefing will be held at 2:00 p.m. on February 14, 2024, at Evansville Fire District located at 425 Water Street, Evansville, WI 53536.

A community gathering for Rock County Residents impacted by the Evansville Tornado will be held at 6:00 p.m. on February 15, 2024, at Evansville High School – Auditorium, 640 S 5th St., Evansville, WI 53536.

Rock County Emergency Management and Rock County Sheriff's Office remind residents to be cautious when hiring storm repair contractors. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection released tips for hiring storm damage repair contractors at https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/News_Media/20240209StormDamageRepairContractors.aspx.

UPDATE #5 02/11/2024 AT 12:45 PM:

Local authorities received notification from electrical companies working in the affected area that Gibbs Lake Road is expected to open sometime on the afternoon of February 11, 2024.

Over the next week, residents should expect intermittent power outages on Highway 59, Caledonia Road, and Gibbs Lake Road as electrical companies conduct repairs in the area.



The Rock County Sheriff's Office has received information about kayakers on the Yahara River and Badfish Creek. We have not had an opportunity to survey these waterways for debris and hazards. We strongly advise against paddling the Yahara River and Badfish Creek at this time.

UPDATE #4 02/10/2024 AT 4:00 PM:

Rock County Emergency Management has arranged for porta potties and pallets of bottled water at Porter Town Hall (8809 N Wilder Road, Evansville, WI 53536) and Yahara Valley Elementary School (8643 N Raymond Road, Edgerton, WI 53534) for residents and volunteers involved in cleaning up after the Evansville tornado.

UPDATE #3 02/10/2024 AT 9:00 AM:

As of the morning of February 10, 2024, all roads, except Gibbs Lake Road, have reopened. Local authorities are scaling down the Command Post established after the Evansville tornado. Law enforcement will maintain an increased presence in the affected area.

For property access and other non-life-threatening law enforcement needs, residents in the affected area should call the Rock County Communications Center non-emergency line: 608-757-2244. Residents should continue to dial 211 for damage reports and unmet resource needs.

Donations for those impacted by the Evansville tornado can be dropped off at the Evansville Fire District during dayshift hours on February 10-11, 2024. The address is 425 Water Street, Evansville, WI 53536.

UPDATE #2 02/09/2024 AT 12:35 PM:

As of 12:34 p.m. on February 9, 2024, Territorial Road reopened. Several side roads remain closed. These roads are marked by barricades. Please avoid the closed roads.

We appreciate the significant number of area residents and businesses offering donations. At this time, we are unaware of any unmet needs. We will provide updates if that changes in the next 24 hours. We do not need volunteers from the community at this time.

A press conference will be held at 3:00 p.m. on February 9, 2024, at the Evansville ACE Hardware located at 755 Brown School Road, Evansville, WI 53536.

Residents impacted by the Evansville Tornado are encouraged to attend a Porter Town Hall Meeting at 5:00 p.m. on February 9, 2024, at Evansville Fire District located at 425 Water Street, Evansville, WI 53536.

UPDATE #1 02/09/2024 AT 9:45 AM:

As of 8:53 a.m. on February 9, 2024, Highway 14 reopened for eastbound and westbound traffic. Several side roads remain closed due to debris and other hazards. Authorities ask the public to avoid auxiliary roads.

Evacuated residents should not return to their properties at this time. As non-evacuated residents assess their properties, they should report damage to 211. Further information will be provided to these residents later today.

All citizens impacted by this storm who need resources should contact 211.

Rock County Emergency Management and local partners are currently conducting preliminary damage assessments and working to clear the area. Damage assessors will have identification. Residents are asked to cooperate with damage assessors. The Wisconsin Air Coordination Group is performing a flyover across the affected area. The Rock County Sheriff's Office Unmanned Aerial Systems Team is also flying drones to survey damage.

At 8:57 p.m. on February 8, 2024, Rock County Administrator Josh Smith declared an emergency for this event. Preliminary reports indicate damage at several locations in and around Evansville. All reported injuries are minor.

Many local and state resources have responded. In addition to the agencies listed in the original release, City of Beloit Emergency Management and Public Information Officer, Dane County Emergency Management, Wisconsin Emergency Management, City of Milton Police Department, Edgerton Police Department, Town of Fulton Police Department, Wisconsin Air Coordination Group, and Verizon Frontline Crisis Response Team also assisted.

A press conference will be held later today. Details will follow.

ORIGINAL 02/09/2024 AT 12:59 AM:

At approximately 5:50 p.m. on February 8, 2024, the Rock County Sheriff's Office along with the Evansville Fire District, Evansville EMS, Evansville Police Department, Brooklyn Fire District, Beloit Fire Department, Beloit Police Department, Janesville Police Department, Janesville Fire Department, Footville Fire Department, Fitchburg Fire Department, Stoughton Fire Department, Albany Fire Department, Verona Fire Department, Turtle Fire Department, Town of Beloit Fire Department, Brodhead Fire Department, Wisconsin DNR, Wisconsin State Patrol, Rock County Department of Public Works, Rock County Communications Center, SWEPT, American Red Cross, Mercy MD, and Rock County Emergency Management responded to reports of severe weather damage east and northeast of Evansville.

As units began arriving in the area, they verified damage ranging from minor to major to several structures and outbuildings and encountered debris closing area roadways. Damage to power infrastructure caused outages spanning from west of Edgerton to Footville. Minor injuries were reported due to the storm. With the power outages in the area, a warming shelter has been established at the Evansville Fire Station.

Further damage assessments will be completed after first light. We do not currently have an anticipated time roadways will be open or when power will be restored in the area.

As of the time of this release, the following roads will remain closed and will interfere with the morning commute:

West HWY 14 from County M to County HWY H
County M from Territorial Rd to County HWY H
West HWY 59 from Tolles Rd to County HWY H
North Tolles from HWY 59 to HWY 14
North Wilde from HWY 59 to HWY 14
North Riley from HWY 59 to HWY 14

Further information will be released as it becomes available.

CURTIS N. FELL
SHERIFF

By: Captain Mark Thompson