



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: Sheriff Mike Lukas  
Phone: (715) 346-1400  
Authorized: Chief Deputy Beaudoin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Sent: July 20, 2019

### **Storms Cause Damage in Portage County Crews are Working on Restoration**

Portage County was heavily impacted by several storm systems this weekend. The Portage County Communications Center has been extremely busy fielding hundreds of storm related calls. Emergency crews are busy assisting where needed.

If residents are without power, they should report it directly to their power company. Utility providers have summoned additional resources from throughout the region, and are working to restore power to affected areas.

If residents have suffered moderate property damage, they should directly contact their insurance companies. Residents with severe damage (damage exceeding 40% of the assessed property value or structural damage) should report it by calling their insurance company and by calling 211 where the damage will be logged for tracking purposes.

The Portage County Emergency Operations Center has been opened, and Team Members have been working with municipalities to assist in responding to the situation and providing supplies.

Damage may have occurred to gas pipes in Portage County. If you smell the odor of natural gas, leave the area, and call Wisconsin Public Service.

There are trees and utility lines down in many parts of Portage County. Many highways are currently blocked by trees and/or utility lines. Please avoid any unnecessary travel. Motorist should use extreme caution and stay away from any downed utility lines as they may be energized.

Information received from utility companies indicates power may be out in Portage County for days. Please check the well-being of your friends, family, neighbors, the elderly and call 911 for any medical emergencies. Information and tips on how to stay safe during power outages can be found at: <https://www.ready.gov/power-outages>

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