



## For Immediate Release

9/18/2023

(Eau Claire, Wis.) –

As of September 11, 2023, the United States has experienced more weather-related disasters that exceed one billion dollars in costs than any other year in recorded history. The twenty-three separate events are more than the previous record of twenty-two events which took twelve months to occur in 2020. A full list of the 2023 one-billion-dollar disasters can be found at: [Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters | National Centers for Environmental Information \(NCEI\) \(noaa.gov\)](#)

“The record number of disasters is quite disheartening,” says Tyler Esh, Emergency Management Coordinator for Eau Claire County. “Even more concerning is that almost every one of these events can occur in Eau Claire County! This includes floods, tornadoes and severe weather, and winter weather impacts.”

Locally, Emergency Management staff are revising several documents like the Emergency Operations Plan, Emergency Operations Center Plan, and Continuity of Operations/Continuity of Government Plan. So far in 2023 over 120 individuals have received some level of Incident Command or Emergency Operations Center Training, 80 individuals have received public information or social media training, and multiple exercises have been done on a variety of topics that help test and stress local responders in a learning environment. Upcoming training can be found: [Emergency Management Calendar | Eau Claire County](#)

Additionally, our team has had the opportunity to open a new emergency operations center where a coordinated response to a major disaster can be conducted. Our two-person team holds leadership roles on a local incident management team and with state and national emergency management programs, which allows us to respond to disasters and learn new best practices from across the country and incorporate them into the emergency operations center.

Lastly, we are waiting on several grant requests to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for items like a severe weather shelter, hazard mitigation plan revision, and mobile command post that can be used by responders at a disaster to talk to our emergency operations center.

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