



## Kentucky Severe Storms and Tornadoes May 19, 2025

### Office of the Governor

---

Governor Andy Beshear  
700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 100  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 564-2611

[Welcome - Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear](#)

[Governor Andy Beshear | Facebook](#)

[Governor Andy Beshear \(@GovAndyBeshear\) / X](#)

Press release as of May 17, 2025:

*"After surveying storm damage this afternoon, Gov. Andy Beshear provided an update on severe weather that hit South Central Kentucky particularly hard with a tornado touching down in Laurel County.*

*"We've had more than our fair share of natural disasters in Kentucky in recent years," said Gov. Beshear. "And while we can't know why Kentucky keeps getting hit and it feels tough for our people to be facing this level of pain and destruction – one thing we know here in the commonwealth is how to come together, live our faith and values and help our neighbors in their time of need."*

*The Governor said that, as of 1 p.m. EDT Saturday, there were [18 confirmed deaths](#) connected to the severe weather. The fatalities include 17 people in Laurel County and one in Pulaski County.*

*First responders from Kentucky Emergency Management, the Kentucky National Guard, Kentucky State Police (KSP), the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet have been onsite since this morning.*

*Saturday afternoon, first responders were focused on search and rescue efforts. Anyone missing a loved one who is able to travel should go to Faith Assembly of God at 390 Faith Assembly Church Road in London and speak with the Kentucky State Police and Laurel County Sheriff's Office. Those unable to travel can report missing persons to 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767), selecting option 4 when prompted.*

*The Governor was joined at Saturday afternoon's briefing by Director of the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management Eric Gibson, KSP Commissioner Phillip Burnett Jr., Senate President Robert Stivers, State Rep. Shane Baker and Laurel County Sheriff John Root, along with other local, state and federal officials and their representatives.*

*Ahead of the storm, the Governor [declared](#) a [state of emergency](#). Earlier today, Gov. Beshear spoke with federal Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and*

officials at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Office of the Governor has been in communication with the White House.

In the wake of the severe weather overnight, 7 counties and 1 city have declared states of emergency.

**Kentucky National Guard:** Nearly 70 soldiers and airmen are assisting in Laurel and Pulaski. Guardsmen are assisting Kentucky State Police with roving and stationary patrols in Laurel County to enhance public safety. UH-60 Blackhawk crews conducted aerial surveys of Laurel and Pulaski counties to review damage and assess the area.

**Kentucky State Police:** KSP telecommunicators have answered more than 4,000 calls for service since this morning. KSP troopers and officers are on the ground in Laurel County to assist the Laurel County Sheriff's Office and the National Guard.

**Kentucky State Parks:** Cumberland Falls and Lake Cumberland state resort parks have been activated to shelter those impacted by the severe weather.

**Kentucky Transportation Cabinet:** State highway crews across the state went on call before the storm and responded overnight to downed trees, hail and tornado damage to clear roadways for emergency responders and rescue efforts.

Chainsaw and backhoe crews continue to work alongside firefighters and police, clearing debris and assisting utility crews as they untangle lines and reset poles. Signal crews are working to restore traffic lights – drivers should treat dark signals as four-way stops.

**Emergency Shelter:** First Baptist Church at 804 W. Fifth St. in London.

**Road Closures:** More than 24 state highways are closed either from previous slides and flooding or from debris, downed power lines and current flooding.

Visit [goky.ky.gov](http://goky.ky.gov) before traveling to make sure your route is not affected by road closures.

**Power Outages:** At the time of the Governor's briefing, about 69,218 customers were reportedly without power, down from a high of 172,711. This number is constantly changing.

**Water Outages:** Approximately 185 customers are without water, and 9,500 customers are under a boil water advisory.

**When to Call 911:** If you have an emergency or life-threatening situation, dial 911 for immediate available assistance.

**Rapid Needs Assessment:** If you have immediate needs that are not life-threatening, please complete the [Rapid Needs Assessment Form](#) or call [502-607-6665](tel:502-607-6665). These needs include: power is out or inconsistent; individuals with medical needs or disabilities; no food or unable to cook; no or very little drinking water; unable to leave house due to weather and lack of transportation; phone issues; unable to leave vehicle; checking on a loved one; and more.

**Emergency Prescription Refills:** Gov. Beshear signed an [executive order](#) allowing Kentucky pharmacists to dispense emergency 30-day refills for any non-controlled medication.

Gov. Beshear reminded Kentuckians and anyone else who would like to help that the Team Kentucky Storm Relief Fund is there to help survivors, including paying for funeral expenses for those lost in the disaster. To donate, click [here](#)."

## **Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency**

---

Kentucky Emergency Management  
100 Minuteman Parkway  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(800) 255-2587

[Kentucky Emergency Management](#)  
[Kentucky Emergency Management | Frankfort KY | Facebook](#)  
[KYEM \(@KentuckyEM\) / X](#)

## **American Red Cross**

---

American Red Cross of Kentucky  
520 East Chestnut Street  
Louisville, KY 40201  
(502) 589-4450

[Kentucky Region | American Red Cross](#)

### **Open Shelters:**

804 W 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
London, KY 40741

Please see the following link for the most updated list for shelters: [Disaster Shelters | Find Shelters | American Red Cross](#).

## **Department of Transportation**

---

Kentucky Department of Transportation  
200 Mero Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 564-4890

[Home | KYTC](#)  
[Kentucky Transportation Cabinet | Frankfort KY | Facebook](#)  
[Kentucky Transportation Cabinet \(@KYTC\) / X](#)

Please see the following link for updated traffic conditions: [GoKy.ky.gov](#).

## **United Way/211 Information and Referrals Lines**

These information and referral lines may know of additional resources currently providing assistance, such as food pantries, clothing closets, emergency shelters, and agencies offering financial assistance. Please dial 2-1-1 and provide your zip code and demographic information in order to receive referrals. Information can also be obtained at [Call 211 for Essential Community Services | United Way 211](#).

Kentucky 211  
Dial 211 from your phone  
Text your zip code to 898211  
(844) 966-0906  
[United Way of Kentucky](#)

## **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

(800) 621-3362  
[FEMA.gov](#)  
Please visit the website and click on “*Disaster Declarations*”. If a disaster is declared, please call to apply for assistance by phone, or visit: [Individual Assistance | FEMA.gov](#) to apply online.

## **DisasterAssistance.gov**

[Home | disasterassistance.gov](#)

Offers information about local resources for disasters, including: FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs), Red Cross, food, shelter, state emergency management agencies, and hospital locators.

To determine if individual disaster assistance is available through FEMA, please visit the website and enter the address.

To locate your local state emergency management agency for disaster information and updates, please visit: [Search Your Location | FEMA.gov](#)

## **American Red Cross National**

(800) 733-2767  
[American Red Cross | Help Those Affected by Disasters](#)

## **National Weather Service**

Weather alerts by state are available at: [Active Alerts \(weather.gov\)](#).

## **The Weather Channel**

Local forecasts and severe weather.

[National and Local Weather Radar, Daily Forecast, Hurricane and information from The Weather Channel and weather.com.](#)

## **Safe Travel USA**

[SafeTravelUSA](#)

## **National Traffic And Road Closure Information**

[National Traffic and Road Closure Information | Federal Highway Administration \(dot.gov\)](#)

## **Free Help Line**

Optum, a leading health and behavioral health services company, is offering a free emotional-support help line.

The toll-free number, 866-447-3573, will be open Monday-Friday, 8am-8pm CST. The service is free of charge and open to anyone. Specially trained Optum mental health specialists help people manage their stress and anxiety so they can continue to address their everyday needs. Callers may also receive referrals to community resources to help them with specific concerns, including financial and legal matters.

Along with the toll-free help line, emotional-support resources and information are available online at <https://www.liveandworkwell.com>.