



Michigan Tornadoes March 13, 2026

Office of the Governor

Governor Gretchen Whitmer
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909
517-335-7858

[Contact the Governor](#)

[Governor Gretchen Whitmer | Facebook](#)
x.com/GovWhitmer

Press release March 8, 2026:

*“**LANSING, Mich.** – Today, Governor Gretchen Whitmer declared a state of emergency for Branch, Cass, and St. Joseph counties to assist with response and recovery efforts related to a deadly tornado outbreak in southwest Michigan.*

*“This morning, I’ve declared a state of emergency for Branch, Cass, and St. Joseph counties. This state of emergency declaration will ensure that every state resource is available to assist in recovery efforts from the devastating tornadoes on Friday,” said **Governor Whitmer**. “Our entire state is wrapping its arms around Three Rivers, Union City, Edwardsburg, and everywhere in between. Our hearts are with the families who lost loved ones and the Michiganders who were injured. I will be joining the Michigan State Police today to tour the impacted areas and assess the damage. We will get through this together.”*

*“We have been closely coordinating with local and state partners to assess damage and support communities impacted by the severe weather across southwest Michigan,” said **Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist II**. “I’m grateful to the first responders, emergency managers, and public works crews working through the night to keep Michiganders safe. Thank you for your dedication and swift action during this challenging weather.”*

On March 6, multiple tornadoes touched down across the region, causing widespread damage, injuries and loss of life. Three people were killed when an EF-3 tornado struck Union City in Branch County.

According to the National Weather Service, it is the deadliest tornado in Michigan since 1980. Another tornado in Cass County claimed one life.

*“Michigan State Police troopers were among the first to respond when tornadoes touched down in these communities,” said **Col. James F. Grady II**, director of the Michigan State Police (MSP) and state director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. “I am proud of the work our enlisted and civilian members are doing alongside local partners as MSP continues to support response and recovery efforts. Our teams are coordinating through the State Emergency Operations Center and working around the clock to ensure all local needs are met.”*

By declaring a state of emergency, the governor has authorized the use of all available state resources to assist local response and recovery operations in the affected counties. The MSP Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (EMHSD) is coordinating the state’s emergency response through the State Emergency Operations Center.

The declaration also allows eligible communities to seek financial assistance under Section 19 of Michigan’s Emergency Management Act (Public Act 390 of 1976, as amended). The funding helps local governments cover emergency response costs and repair public infrastructure damaged by the storms.

Additional state and federal disaster assistance programs may also be pursued as damage assessments continue.”

Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

Branch Emergency Management

141 E Chicago Rd

Coldwater, MI 49036

517-278-3091

[Emergency Management – Branch County, Michigan](#)

Cass Emergency Management

130 N Broadway

Cassopolis, MI 49031

269-445-1249

[Emergency Management | Cass County, MI](#)

[Cass County, Michigan - Government | Cassopolis MI | Facebook](#)

[Cass County, Michigan \(@casscountymi\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

[Cass County Michigan - YouTube](#)

St. Joseph County

650 E Main St.

Centreville MI, 49032

269-467-9045 ext 225

[Emergency Services/Homeland Security | St. Joseph County, MI](#)

[St. Joseph County Government of Michigan | Centreville MI | Facebook](#)
[St. Joseph County Michigan - YouTube](#)

American Red Cross

The American Red Cross Michigan Region

Lansing Red Cross Blood and Platelet Donation Center
1729 E Saginaw
Lansing, MI 48912<street address>
1-800-RED CROSS

[Lansing Blood and Platelet Donation Center | Red Cross](#)
[Facebook](#)

[American Red Cross \(@americanredcross\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)
[TikTok - Make Your Day](#)
[x.com/RedCross](#)

Brighton American Red Cross Blood and Platelet Donation Center
250 Genoa Business Park Drive, Suite 120A
Brighton, MI 48114
1-800-RED CROSS

[Brighton Red Cross Blood and Platelet Donation Center | Red Cross](#)
[Facebook](#)
[American Red Cross \(@americanredcross\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)
[TikTok - Make Your Day](#)
[x.com/RedCross](#)

Flint Red Cross Blood and Platelet Donation Center
1401 S. Grand Traverse
Flint, MI 48503
1-800-RED CROSS

[Flint Blood and Platelet Donation Center | Red Cross](#)
[American Red Cross \(@americanredcross\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)
[TikTok - Make Your Day](#)
[x.com/RedCross](#)

Open Shelters:

To view a list of open shelters, please visit: [Disaster Shelters | Find Shelters | American Red Cross](#)

Department of Transportation

Michigan Department of Transportation
425 W. Ottawa St
PO Box 30050
Lansing, MI 48909

517-241-2400

[Michigan Department of Transportation](#)

[Michigan Department of Transportation | Facebook](#)

[Michigan DOT \(@MichiganDOT\) / X](#)

[MichiganDOT \(@michigandot\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

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](#).

[Get Help - United Way for Southeastern Michigan](#)

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>.