



Severe Storms and Tornadoes May 19th, 2025

Office of the Governor

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Governor's Press Release Posted on Website on 5/19/25:

"Jefferson City — Today, Governor Mike Kehoe provided an update on the recovery efforts following the devastating severe storms and tornadoes that struck on May 16, leaving widespread destruction in St. Louis and the southeast Missouri region. Governor Kehoe and state officials spent Saturday with local officials in St. Louis surveying some of the hardest-hit areas. All levels of government are fully engaged, and recovery efforts continue across the region. Ahead of the storm, Governor Kehoe extended the Missouri State of Emergency declaration, which has allowed first responders, road crews, and emergency management officials to move quickly. The Missouri State Emergency Operations Plan remains in effect.

- **Damage Assessments and Local Support:** State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) regional coordinators continue working swiftly with local emergency managers to make initial damage assessments in preparation for a federal major disaster declaration request. SEMA staff are coordinating resource requests from local emergency managers for needed supplies, materials, and support services with sheltering, debris clearance, damage assessments, and other needs. For more information on the federal disaster declaration process, visit [this link](#).
- **White House Coordination and Federal Support:** Governor Kehoe has been in direct contact with President Donald Trump, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Acting Administrator David Richardson, and Missouri's Congressional delegation on the situation and discussed state efforts and federal assistance. Today, Governor Mike Kehoe also took two actions to expedite federal assistance to Missouri following the severe storms and tornadoes that struck the

state on May 16, causing seven deaths and widespread damage in the St. Louis region and areas of southeast Missouri:

- Governor Kehoe requested that President Donald Trump issue a federal **Emergency Declaration** for the State of Missouri in response to the May 16 tornadoes and severe storms, which, if approved, would authorize Direct Federal Assistance (DFA) and up to \$5 million in immediate funding to the state to support emergency protective measures and debris removal.
- The Governor also requested that FEMA participate in joint **Preliminary Damage Assessments** (PDA) of damage to homes and personal property in the **City of St. Louis** and **St. Louis County** along with **Cape Girardeau, Iron, New Madrid, Scott, Stoddard, and Wayne** counties in southeast Missouri, in preparation for a request by the Governor for a federal Major Disaster Declaration for these areas.

"Friday's severe storms and tornadoes caused devastation in the St. Louis region and areas of southeast Missouri, took the lives of seven people, resulted in thousands of homes, businesses, and public infrastructure being damaged or destroyed, and left tens of thousands without power," **Governor Kehoe** said. "Local first responders, officials, businesses, and volunteer groups are working around the clock to recover, but the task before us is tremendously large and recovery will not be easy. A federal Emergency Declaration will provide an immediate infusion of needed funds while the joint preliminary damage assessments will allow the normal federal Major Disaster Declaration process to move forward. We appreciate President Trump, Secretary Noem, FEMA Acting Administrator Richardson, and Trump Administration officials for their quick communication and responsiveness to the situation."

A federal **Emergency Declaration** provides federal resources to support state response operations to protect lives, safeguard public health and provide for public safety. It does not delay or affect the process of pursuing a federal **Major Disaster Declaration**, which would provide **Individual Assistance** to help homeowners and renters, and **Public Assistance**, which would reimburse local governments for emergency response costs, debris removal, and repair and replacement of damaged roads, bridges, and other public infrastructure. Individual Assistance and Public Assistance require joint preliminary damage assessments by teams made up of representatives from FEMA, SEMA, the U.S. Small Business Administration, and local emergency management officials, extensive documentation, and a federal review process that can take weeks to complete.

Beginning **Wednesday, May 21**, six teams will survey and verify documented damage in Cape Girardeau, Iron, New Madrid, St. Louis, Scott, Stoddard, and Wayne counties and the City of St. Louis to determine if **Individual Assistance** can be requested through FEMA. Individual Assistance allows eligible residents to seek federal assistance for temporary housing, housing repairs, replacement of damaged belongings, vehicles, and other qualifying expenses. Initial damage assessments for roads, bridges and other public infrastructure are ongoing, potentially resulting in a request for PDAs for **Public Assistance** in the future.

SEMA continues to coordinate with local officials and volunteer and faith-based partners to identify needs and assist impacted families and individuals. Missourians

*with unmet needs are encouraged to contact **United Way** by dialing 2-1-1 or www.211helps.org or the **American Red Cross** at 1-800-733-2767. For additional resources and information about disaster recovery in Missouri, including general clean-up information, housing assistance, and mental health services, visit recovery.mo.gov.”*

Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

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[MO Public Safety \(@MoPublicSafety\) / X](#)

American Red Cross

American Red Cross
Great St. Louis Chapter
10195 Corporate Square Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63132

[St. Louis Area | Missouri | American Red Cross](#)

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[Three American Red Cross Shelters Open Following Significant Storm Damage](#)

Open Shelters:

Recreational Center
1410 S. Tucker Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63104
(314) 516-2800

[St. Louis Recovery | Shelter locations, who to call, ways to help](#)

Friendly Temple Outreach Center
6356 Dr. Martin Luther King Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63133

[St. Louis Recovery | Shelter locations, who to call, ways to help](#)

Grace United Methodist Church
6199 Waterman Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63112

[St. Louis Recovery | Shelter locations, who to call, ways to help](#)

Department of Transportation

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Please see the following link for updates on traffic and road conditions: [CHART - Traffic Incidents & Events](#)

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](#).

211 Missouri

Call 211 or (573) 636-4100

[| United Way of Central Missouri](#)

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>.