



Michigan Severe Weather May 8, 2024

Office of the Governor

Governor Gretchen Whitmer
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 335-7858

[Governor Gretchen Whitmer \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov)
[Governor Gretchen Whitmer | Facebook](#)

Press release on 05/07/2024:

“Governor Whitmer Declares State of Emergency Following Severe Storms and Tornadoes in Southwest Michigan

LANSING, Mich. – This evening, Governor Gretchen Whitmer declared a [state of emergency](#) for Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, Branch, and Cass counties after a severe storm system, including large hail up to four inches in diameter and at least two confirmed tornadoes, swept through the area leaving significant damage to buildings and roads.

*“My heart goes out to all those impacted by tonight’s severe weather in southwest Michigan,” said **Governor Whitmer**. “State and local emergency teams are on the ground and working together to assist Michiganders. I’ve declared a state of emergency to ensure resources are expedited to the area and activated our State Emergency Operations Center. We will continue monitoring the situation and coordinating efforts overnight. I want to thank all the first responders working hard to keep Michiganders safe. We’ll get through this together.”*

By declaring a state of emergency, Governor Whitmer has made available all state resources in cooperation with local response and recovery efforts in the designated area. The declaration authorizes the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD) to coordinate state efforts above and beyond what MSP/EMHSD has already been doing in conjunction with local agencies.

“My heart goes out to all of the residents, business owners and communities in Kalamazoo County and the surrounding areas impacted by tonight’s tornadoes,”

said **state Senator Sean McCann (D-Kalamazoo)**. “I appreciate the swift work of our first responders, volunteers and neighbors to help those who were injured or experienced damages, and am grateful for the governor’s equally swift response to declare an emergency in the area and dedicate state support to assist with cleanup and repairs.”

“This evening our community has been directly impacted by the severe storm that moved through Southwest Michigan,” said **state Representative Christine Morse (D-Texas Township)**. “The health and safety of family, friends and residents always comes first, and I can assure our community members that our local emergency responders are at work to ensure that anyone who needs assistance will get it. Along with my local and state partners we will continue to survey the damage and step in swiftly when and where needed. Daybreak will reveal the level of devastation, and I will be at-the-ready for every possible way to bring immediate relief to those affected. My office is available to help find resources and support families in need during this unexpected crisis.”

On the evening of May 7, a severe storm system swept through several counties in southwest Michigan. National Weather Service radar confirmed the storm system resulted in multiple tornadoes touching down in the affected areas. There is widespread damage, including homes and businesses that were destroyed, trees and power lines blocking roads, and extensive property damage.

To view the full executive order, [click here](#).”

Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

Branch County Emergency Management

141 E. Chicago Rd.

Coldwater, MI 49036

(517) 278-3091

[Emergency Management - Branch County, Michigan \(countyofbranch.com\)](http://countyofbranch.com)

Saint Joseph County Emergency Services/Homeland Security

650 E. Main St.

Centreville, MI 49032

(269) 467-9045 ext. 281

[Emergency Services/Homeland Security | St. Joseph County, MI \(stjosephcountymi.org\)](http://stjosephcountymi.org)

Cass County Emergency Management

130 N. Broadway

Cassopolis, MI 49031

(269) 445-1460

[Emergency Management | Cass County, MI \(casscountymi.org\)](http://casscountymi.org)

Kalamazoo County Office of Emergency Management
1500 Lamont Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49048
(269) 385-6137

[Office of Emergency Management - Kalamazoo Michigan County Government Web Site \(kalcounty.com\)](http://kalcounty.com)

American Red Cross

American Red Cross of Southwest Michigan
5640 Venture Ct.
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
(269) 353-6180

[Southwest Michigan Chapter | Red Cross](#)
[American Red Cross Michigan Region | Facebook](#)

Recent social media post on 05/07/2024:

“We have opened an emergency shelter for residents displaced by a tornado that struck the city of Portage on Tuesday evening. The shelter is at the First Assembly of God, 5550 Oakland Drive. Anyone impacted by today’s storms may call 1-800-RED CROSS for assistance.”

Open Shelters:

- First Assembly of God
550 Oakland Drive
Portage, MI 49024

Department of Transportation

Michigan Department of Transportation
425 W. Ottawa St.
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 241-2400

[Michigan Department of Transportation](#)
[Michigan Department of Transportation | Facebook](#)

Please see the following link for updated traffic conditions: [MDOT - Mi Drive Map \(state.mi.us\)](http://MDOT - Mi Drive Map (state.mi.us))

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](#).

Michigan 2-1-1

Dial 2-1-1 or (844) 875-9211

[Find Help - Michigan 2-1-1 \(mi211.org\)](#)

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. Please call or visit the website to locate your local chapter and open shelters.

[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>.