

**DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND  
EMERGENCY STATUS REPORT #1  
Friday, April 25, 2008 at 11:30 a.m.**

**SITUATION OVERVIEW:**

**Thursday, April 24, 2008:**

During the afternoon of April 24, several grass fires were reported in Crawford County near Grayling. The largest fire started in the area of 4 Mile Road east of I-75. In addition, a small secondary fire began near Barker Lake and merged with the 4 Mile Road fire at approximately 4 p.m. As a result, I-75 near 4 Mile Road was closed in both directions due to heavy smoke and low visibility conditions. Westbound M-72 was also closed. Both I-75 and M-72 were reopened late Thursday evening. Local businesses and homes in the vicinity of the fire were evacuated. Six homes were damaged near the Grayling Game Club Area with 20 people being sheltered by the American Red Cross. No injuries were reported.

A local state of emergency was declared by Crawford County at 6:44 p.m. No state assistance beyond state troopers was requested. The Red Cross established a shelter at Camp Grayling, which was subsequently moved to Michelson Memorial United Methodist Church in Grayling. Power supplies and other affected services were subsequently being restored. The fire was substantially controlled and fire fighters were released around 10:30 p.m. until 7 a.m. on April 25.

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At this time, the fire has burned more than 1,100 acres. The fire is nearly 100 percent contained, meaning fire lines have been established and the fire continues to burn. It is estimated that the fire will be extinguished in the next day or two, depending on weather conditions. Due to the situation, Crawford AuSable Schools are closed today. The American Red Cross continues to provide sheltering for affected citizens, as well as food and water for responders.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and several local fire departments are actively involved in the fire suppression and containment activities. Road closure, traffic control, and evacuation operations are being assisted by local police departments and the Michigan State Police (MSP). The U.S. Fire Service is providing assistance and has supplied a helicopter to assist local efforts. The Michigan National Guard Joint Operations Center (JOC) is also monitoring activities. Local hospitals have been alerted and are on stand-by.

The Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (EMHSD) continues to monitor the situation and is in contact with the DNR, Michigan National Guard, and local authorities. At this time, there have been no requests for state resources, other than MSP troopers. The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) has not been activated; however, EMHSD will continue to monitor the situation. Additional updates will be provided as the situation warrants.