



MICHIGAN STATE POLICE Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division

Incident Update: September 18, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

State Response

The Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD) continues monitoring the flooding situation throughout the state, especially in central and southwest Michigan. The MSP/EMHSD remains in frequent contact with local officials and is prepared to support local response activities as needed to address any public health and safety concerns. There are currently no requests for state assistance.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is actively monitoring the status of several dams throughout the state.

The Michigan State Police, Aviation Section conducted a flyover in Allegan and Berrien counties on Wednesday, September 17 to assess water levels, damage, and affected infrastructure.

Updated Local Damage Reports

Berrien County

On Tuesday, September 16, the right embankment of the Pucker Street Dam on the Dowagiac River was overtopped and a portion of the downstream face of the embankment failed, but the dam remains intact. This failure appeared to be caused by erosion. The Berrien County Sheriff's Office closed Pucker Street just upstream of the dam. The Dowagiac River and Galien River water levels are receding. The Paw Paw River is rising, which is most likely due to the wind pushing water into it from Paw Paw Lake. A more complete damage assessment is currently underway. Berrien County declared a local emergency on September 17.

City of Lansing

Water is beginning to recede throughout the city and local officials are actively conducting damage assessments. The local Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) is helping contact citizens to report damage. The city is offering free curbside pick-up of bulk household items that were damaged due to basement flooding.

Kalamazoo County

Emergency officials are monitoring the Kalamazoo River in Comstock as the river is well above flood stage. Workers released water from the Morrow Dam to relieve pressure and crews will assess water levels today to determine if more water should be released. Twenty-seven homes are without electricity and 42 homes are without natural gas in the Lakewood area. Damage assessment is expected to begin September 20 or 21. The Portage River in Vicksburg has receded and is no longer a threat for flooding. Kalamazoo County declared a local emergency on September 16.

Livingston County

The Huron River, near Orr Lake, in Hamburg Township is above flood stage, which is 6.5 feet. The National Weather Service (NWS) projected the flood level will be more than 8 feet by late Thursday or early Friday. If flood level reaches 8 feet, some areas along the shoreline of Orr Lake and the Huron River in Hamburg Township and possibly Green Oak Township could be affected. The number of homes potentially affected would be between 200 and 250. Hamburg Township officials notified residents of possible flooding precautions, safety tips, and the location of sandbags. The Livingston County Drain Commission is the lead agency in assisting township officials and residents with sandbags and sandbagging machines. The county Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has not been activated. A local state of emergency is pending at this time.

Van Buren County

The Breedsville Dam failed on Wednesday, September 17, which controls the flow of the Black River. The breach pushed water and debris through a village park and onto a gas line. Emergency crews considered evacuating nearby homes, but they secured the line without any problems. No injuries or serious property damage have been reported.

Local Declarations

- Eaton County (September 14)
- Allegan County (September 15)
- Kalamazoo County (September 16)
- Berrien County (September 17)