

Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division
Status Update: June 19, 2008 at 6 p.m.

Governor's Declarations under 1976 PA 390, as amended:

Governor Granholm today declared a state of emergency in Lake, Manistee, Osceola, Ottawa and Wexford counties to address immediate threats to public health and safety. State resources will specifically be made available to assist with damaged bridges, culverts, roadways and plugged drains.

State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)

The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was activated following a series of severe storms commencing on June 6 and continuing through June 13. Daily operation of the SEOC continues today, Wednesday, June 18. Key state agencies continue to monitor the event and provide resources to meet public health and safety needs. State resources are being deployed based on local requests, availability and geographic areas. The key agencies include Agriculture, Community Health, Environmental Quality, Military and Veterans Affairs, Natural Resources, State Police, Transportation and the MSP/EMHSD. A FEMA Region V liaison is also present in the SEOC.

The SEOC will be staffed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. throughout the week or until needs dictate otherwise. The mission in the SEOC continues to be identifying and addressing the most critical public safety / health mission assignments and providing the necessary assistance to the declared areas.

Federal and State Agency Responses

The MDOT continues to assist in Mason County with repairs to road washouts and road / bridge / culvert damage assessments. MDOT repair work in Eaton County has been completed and operations there were terminated today. In the City of Saginaw, the MDOT continues to provide debris removal assistance on the state trunk lines located within the city limits. In Mason County, the US-31 rebuilding project has been completed and the roadway has been reopened to traffic.

The MDA intercounty drain inspectors are in contact with the Allegan County Drain Commissioner and will be developing a plan of action for providing state assistance with drain inspection activities. The MDA also submitted a request to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to make an Emergency Physical Loss Declaration for the purpose of making emergency physical loss loans available to 31 Michigan counties that suffered physical damage from the tornadoes, hail and high winds that occurred from June 6-15, 2008.

The MDEQ dam safety staff inspected both the Hamlin Lake Dam and the Farwell Dam and found them to be structurally sound. They continue to monitor both dams in conjunction with local officials (and in the case of the Hamlin Lake Dam, the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources). The MDEQ is evaluating assistance options for water sampling and laboratory analysis services in Allegan, Mason, and Ottawa counties.

The MDMVA has debris removal work crews and equipment in the City of Lansing and is assisting city crews in addressing the debris situations that pose the greatest risk to public safety and health. The MDMVA crews were originally scheduled to work in the city through Friday, June 20; however, today the City of Lansing decided to release the MDMVA crews due to the fact that their vehicles are not the type needed to complete the remaining work at this juncture of the operation. A decision will be made Wednesday evening or Thursday morning by the MDMVA as to whether the crews will be sent home or reassigned to another location. Three work crews from the MDOC will continue working with the city crews on debris removal through Friday.

The MDNR continues to monitor conditions at Ludington State Park, which reopened on the afternoon of June 16. In addition, the MDNR has provided work crews and equipment to the City of Saginaw to assist with debris removal activities.

The MDOC has three work crews (app. 15-20 inmates) that are providing debris removal assistance in the City of Lansing through Friday, June 20. The MDOC crews are working with City of Lansing crews in clearing debris in the eastern part of the city. Other MDOC crews out of Jackson County and Manistee County are on standby in case they are needed for debris removal operations in other areas of the state.

The MSP mission in Mason County ended on the evening of June 16. No further missions have been assigned.

FEMA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) have been coordinating with Mason County / City of Ludington officials regarding the issue of silt and other debris clogging the Ludington public harbor and possibly impacting navigational capabilities. It has been suggested that a harbor / channel dredging project may be required to fully restore navigational capabilities. The USACE has separate emergency authority to implement such a project, absent a federal emergency / major disaster declaration, if the silt / debris negatively impacts navigation. The USACE will follow up with local officials in the coming days to determine the feasibility for a harbor / dredging project.

Local Declarations

Eaton County (June 8)
City of Lansing (June 8)
Ottawa County (June 9)
Delta Township (June 9)
Allegan County (June 10, submitted June 11 to MSP/EMHSD)
Saginaw County (June 11)
Osceola County (June 11)
Barry County (June 12)
Lake County (June 13)
Mason County (June 13)
Wexford County (June 17)
Missaukee County (June 18)
Manistee County (June 19)

Governor's Declarations

- Allegan County
- Eaton County
- Lake County
- Manistee County
- Mason County
- Osceola County
- Ottawa County
- Wexford County
- City of Lansing
- City of Saginaw

Pending Requests for a Governor's Declaration

- Missaukee County

Storm Related Fatalities

There are six confirmed fatalities resulting from the severe weather on June 6-8, 2008. Three fatalities in Ottawa County, two fatalities in Allegan County, and one fatality in Delta Township (Eaton County). There are two fatalities confirmed in Argentine Township (Genesee County) on June 9 as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning from a generator located in the home used during an electricity outage.

A vehicle submerged in the Thornapple River in Kent County on June 13 resulting in one fatality. Reports indicate the car went into the river and traveled about 200 yards downstream from where it left the road. There is a strong current in the river due to increased water levels from recent rain.