



Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Day Eight: More Debris Removal Assistance Requested

Grand Traverse County – “We are far from back to normal,” says County Emergency Management Coordinator Gregg Bird in the wake of last Sunday’s straight-line wind and thunder storm. Bird and County Board Chair Christine Maxbauer have requested debris removal assistance from the state and, on Friday, requested that Governor Snyder a declare state of emergency in the county.

According to Bird, there are many areas of the county outside of Traverse City limits that were “completely decimated by the storm, creating immeasurable, vast amounts of debris.” Residents are faced with the burden of removing tree debris, and need somewhere to dispose of it, other than in roads and streets. Although two storm tree debris drop-off sites have been established, Bird stresses the urgent need to add more sites as soon as possible.

Bird and his Emergency Operations Team, composed of city and county officials, area emergency responders, area fire and police personnel, emergency managers from neighboring counties, and Grand Traverse County staff from Equalization, Road Commission, Finance, Rescue Recovery, Health Department, and Parks and Recreation, continue to contact owners of properties that could serve as drop-off sites, and to work with state and local partners to provide additional debris management resources to the community.

Following is a summary of resources in place to help the community with post-storm cleanup. The next press release from the County’s Emergency Management and Homeland Security office is scheduled to be issued on Monday.

Community Storm Cleanup Hotline: Call 616-841-5399 to request assistance, volunteer time and/or equipment, and hear updates. All calls will be returned.

Facebook Page: “Grand Traverse Strong” at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GrandTraverseStrong/> and the county’s Emergency Management page at www.Fb.com/GTCemergency.

Storm Tree Debris Drop-off Sites: Please do not pile debris in the public right-of-way, because it is overburdening crews and causing safety issues. Use one of these drop-off sites, open each day until further notice, to dispose of storm tree debris only:

- Whitewater Township, 7304 Skegemog Point Road (the Ashmore Gravel Pit), 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- East Bay Township, 656 Rasho Road (former East Bay Township Recycling site), 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Team Rubicon: A national disaster response team of military veterans, requested by the Emergency Operations Team, are in the area to assist residents without sufficient insurance or the means to clean up their private properties. Call the Storm Cleanup Hotline at 616-841-5399 to request assistance.

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