



## Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

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### Immediate Release

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#### **Governor Snyder Declares State of Disaster in Grand Traverse County**

**Grand Traverse County** – County Emergency Management Coordinator Gregg Bird today announced that Governor Rick Snyder has declared a “state of disaster” for the county after severe thunderstorms and high winds caused widespread damage on August 2.

“The losses incurred by our communities have been extraordinary, due to the magnitude of last week’s storms,” Bird said. “This governor’s declaration is the first step in providing assistance to our county and communities. I appreciate the state’s recognition of the severity of this incident and thank Governor Snyder for his commitment to our county’s long-term recovery.”

Based on information provided by Bird, Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners Chair Christine Maxbauer requested on Friday, August 7, a governor’s declaration to provide debris management technical and operations assistance due to the extraordinarily large amount of debris cleanup, removal and disposal. The county also requested financial assistance for local governments through the Disaster and Emergency Contingency Fund.

Since August 3, Grand Traverse County has been under a local state of emergency, which activates local emergency response and recovery plans. By requesting a governor’s declaration, the county has determined that local resources are insufficient to address the situation, and that state assistance is required to protect the health, safety, and property to lessen or avert the threat of a crisis.

As early as tomorrow morning, Captain Chris A. Kelenske, of the Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division, and staff will meet with Bird and his emergency operations team to make a comprehensive plan.

Details will be shared as plans are made.

For additional and on-going updates, visit:

- [www.grandtraverse.org](http://www.grandtraverse.org)
- [www.co.grand-traverse.mi.us/departments/Emergency\\_Management\\_Homeland\\_Security.htm](http://www.co.grand-traverse.mi.us/departments/Emergency_Management_Homeland_Security.htm)
- [www.Facebook.com/GTCemergency](https://www.facebook.com/GTCemergency)
- [www.facebook.com/groups/GrandTraverseStrong](https://www.facebook.com/groups/GrandTraverseStrong)

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