



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 5, 2024

CONTACT:  
Renee Gavin  
Muskegon County  
Emergency Services  
231-724-6341

### ***Response and Recovery Efforts Continue After Muskegon County Declares State of Emergency***

MUSKEGON COUNTY, MI—Response and recovery efforts continue after the two severe storm systems caused widespread severe damage throughout Muskegon County on Tuesday, June 25, 2024.

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for Muskegon County was activated after extensive damage was reported throughout Muskegon County. On Thursday, June 27, 2024, at 4:00 PM, Chair Charles Nash of the Muskegon County Board of Commissioners declared that a state of emergency exists in Muskegon County as of June 25, 2024, and that local resources are being utilized to the fullest possible extent.

Muskegon County consists of 16 townships, 7 cities, and 4 villages. The declaration includes all cities, townships, and villages within Muskegon County. “The basic Disaster Declaration Process is if a disaster occurs – activate an emergency operations center (EOC), respond to life, health, and safety needs, look at the big picture, conduct damage assessment, then declare a local state of emergency if the situation warrants,” said Renee Gavin, Muskegon County Emergency Services Manager. “Once a local declaration is issued, it is sent to the Governor requesting a State declaration if the Governor issues a State declaration that opens access to State resources.”

As of Tuesday, July 3, 2024, at 2:30 PM, more than 270 Municipality Damage Assessment Reports completed. According to the standards set in [Appendix E: IA Damage Assessment Matrix](#), 21 were destroyed, 65 were major, 76 were minor, 83 were affected, and 4 were inaccessible. These continue to change as Municipality Damage Assessment Reports are conducted.

“Our peaceful, small community woke up Tuesday, June 25, 2024, with two severe storm systems changing their lives. Trees through homes, cars beyond repair, and individuals trapped inside their homes, unable to see or know what was occurring. The events that occurred, which we are all living with currently, are unexplainable,” said Scott Huebler, Manager of the City of Whitehall.

“Even though clean-up procedures have been ongoing for a week, the devastation is still present and very visible. What I saw was massive, full-grown trees everywhere, vehicles and houses destroyed, all of which were causing the displacement of residents and utter destruction” said Commissioner Michelle Hazekamp.

Scott Huebler, Manager of the City of Whitehall said, “Given the amount of damage and devastation, it is nothing short of a small miracle there were no reported injuries or deaths within our community.”

Commissioner Hazekamp is thankful for the many individuals that have made time to see the devastation first hand. “I encourage all Local and State Officials to contact Scott Huebler, City of Whitehall, City Manager, to see for themselves the situation at hand,” said Commissioner Hazekamp.

Chair Charles Nash shared information for an upcoming event for those in our community who were impacted by the two storm systems. "On Monday, July 15, 2024, from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM, we will host a Multi-Agency Resource Coordination Event. This event will take place at the Muskegon County Marquette Campus - The Student Center - 1903 Marquette Avenue, Muskegon, MI 49442. As of Tuesday, July 3, 2024, at 2:30 PM, 14 agencies have confirmed attendance. Please follow the Muskegon County social media pages and emergency alert tab on the Muskegon County website for updates on the Multi-Agency Resource Coordination Event and continued updates," said Chair Charles Nash.

Any disaster involves many challenges. Thank you for your assistance and patience as we work through this process.

####