



Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

2600 LaFranier Road, Suite A
Traverse City, MI 49686
Phone: 231-995-6059 Fax: 231-995-6139

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 3, 2015

Local State of Emergency Declared in Grand Traverse County

Grand Traverse County – In response to widespread power outages and impassable roads due to fallen trees and power lines caused by Sunday’s severe thunderstorm, Grand Traverse County Chair Christine Maxbauer has declared a local state of emergency.

As of 10 a.m. today, there were over 15,000 residents throughout the county without power, some with a three-day restoration expectation. “A state of emergency has been declared in support of promoting a quick recovery,” says Gregg Bird, County Emergency Management Coordinator, “to assist with damage assessment and with obtaining resources, as necessary, from the state.”

Bird explained that assessment teams are out right now surveying damage to structures and infrastructure. Road crews are focused on opening roadways and removing apparent hazards, and power companies are working around the clock to restore electricity.

Following an air survey and assessment of damages throughout the county, a press conference with Bird and key area officials will take place today at 3 p.m. at the Governmental Center, 400 Boardman Avenue, Traverse City, Second-floor Chambers.

In the meantime, Bird asks citizens to remain patient, to use caution while traveling, and to never approach or touch downed power lines, which may be live.

County officials are working on plans for water and ice distribution to residents in need, and the Civic Center is offering free showers to residents without water between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. each day this week until power is restored.

###

Contact: Kris Erickson, Grand Traverse County Media Contact; Parks and Recreation Director;
231-922-4511; kerickson@grandtraverse.org.