



## 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, 5 2015

### County Storm Response Efforts Expand

Grand Traverse County -- County officials continue their efforts to address issues, conduct damage assessments, and clean up, following the intense storm of August 2. Because a local emergency was declared by County Emergency Manager Gregg Bird and County Chair Christine Maxbauer, the community is receiving assistance from a number of outside sources.

“Recovery from this storm will not be a short-term effort,” said Bird this morning during a briefing with key area officials. “We are lucky to have such a responsive and cooperative team to manage through all of the different response needs.” Crews from throughout the state have come to the area to help restore power, assess damages, manage debris, and more. The first hurdle – restoring power to thousands of residents – might be overcome as early as tonight, according to power company officials.

Bird said that debris management also is a large obstacle when recovering from a storm. He praised crews for doing an “incredible job” so far. “They addressed emergency situations first and fast,” he explained, “but there still is a great deal of debris to be assessed, surveyed, and removed.”

Bird continues to ask residents to remain patient. “We are in the process of identifying additional space to accumulate debris, and are assisting County residents on a priority basis. If you have not received help with a downed tree or branches near your home, please know that you have not been forgotten.”

Some townships are helping make debris disposal easier for residents who are clearing their private properties. East Bay, Garfield, and Long Lake will provide vouchers for the Keystone brush drop-off site.

Following are safety measures for all county residents to keep in mind during the clean-up process.

- Never touch a tree in contact with a downed power line or wire. Power crews are working to address such potentially dangerous situations.
- Refrain from throwing branches and debris on to roadways, because it takes cleanup crews away from areas that might have more pressing needs.
- Assessments continue and efforts are underway to remove or bolster trees that “lean”, and to address other structural damages that might pose danger.
- Beware of fraud. Check credentials and references of construction contractors claiming to be authorized by a state or a federal agency such as FEMA. Private property owners are advised to work with their insurance companies first.

Bird again reminds that, although recovery efforts are in full force, it will take time to clean up the entire county, which encompasses 464 miles of land. Updates on cleanup efforts will continue throughout the week.

###

Contact: Kris Erickson, Grand Traverse County Media Contact; 231-922-4511;  
[kerickson@grandtraverse.org](mailto:kerickson@grandtraverse.org).