



## Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **County Requests Governor-declared State of Emergency; Team Rubicon Arrives; Storm Debris Dropoff Site Open**

**Grand Traverse County** – Grand Traverse County Chair Christine Maxbauer has requested that Governor Snyder declare a “State of Disaster” or a “State of Emergency” in Grand Traverse County and, “if conditions warrant, to petition the President of the United States for assistance.” County Emergency Management Coordinator Gregg Bird filed the request with the Governor’s Office on behalf of the county this morning, four days after a local state of emergency was declared in Grand Traverse County.

Assistance from the Governor’s Office is being sought, says Bird, “because we are on the brink of debris removal overwhelming our community, and there is damage to private homes, public buildings, and infrastructure that simply cannot be addressed by our local resources.” This decision now lies with the Governor, says Bird, and any response will be shared with the community as soon as it is received.

Another recent development in relief efforts following Sunday’s destructive storm, is an established tree debris drop-off site, which opened this afternoon in East Bay Township. According to Bird, the former East Bay Township Recycling site at 656 Rasha Road will accept storm tree debris from Grand Traverse County residents. “Opening the site,” says Bird, “will provide our citizens with a place to, as responsibly and environmentally friendly as possible, dispose of the extraordinary tree debris this storm has caused.”

The site is open until 9 p.m. tonight, and tomorrow, Saturday, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. There is no cost for disposal, but only branches and tree debris from the storm will be accepted. Unacceptable items are leaves, grass, construction wood, pallets, soil, sod, concrete, rocks, root balls, wood chips, treated/painted wood, plywood, particle board.

This is the first of three drop-off sites Bird hopes will open as a result of this week’s ongoing negotiations with property owners to establish these sites. “Our goals are to provide citizens and maintenance workers with the best possible solution for tree disposal, and keep our roadways clear of dangerous debris.”

All area power companies today reported that only a few customers remain without power, and those households should see it restored by the end of the day.

A crew from Team Rubicon, the non-profit national organization composed of military veterans, arrived in the area today to work with emergency managers to assist residents. For more information about Rubicon, visit the website <http://www.teamrubiconusa.org/>.

A phone line has been dedicated to the storm relief effort in the county. To request assistance, volunteer assistance, and hear updates about established debris drop-off sites, call 616-841-5399.

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