



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II  
LT. GOVERNOR

**EXECUTIVE ORDER**

**No. 2024-3**

**Declaration of State of Emergency**

On May 7, 2024, severe weather that included straight-line winds struck the counties of Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, Branch, and Cass producing damaging winds and at least 2 tornadoes confirmed by radar. These areas saw significant damage to homes, businesses, and public infrastructure, downed power lines, and blocked roads. Though response efforts are still underway, initial damage assessments indicate that residents in these counties have suffered serious consequences from this dangerous storm, including severe property damage.

Local officials in Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, Branch, and Cass counties have taken several actions to respond to the situation including, but not limited to, activating the emergency response and recovery aspects of their emergency operations. Despite these efforts, local resources have proven insufficient to address the situation. State assistance and other outside resources are necessary to effectively respond to and recover from the impacts of this emergency, protect public health, safety, and property, and lessen or avert the threat of more severe and lasting harm.

Section 1 of article 5 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 vests the executive power of the State of Michigan in the governor. Under the Emergency Management Act, 1976 PA 390, as amended, MCL 30.403(4), "[t]he governor shall, by executive order or proclamation, declare a state of emergency if he or she finds that an emergency has occurred or that the threat of an emergency exists."

Therefore, acting under the Michigan Constitution of 1963 and Michigan law, including the Emergency Management Act, 1976 PA 390, as amended, MCL 30.401 to 30.421, I find it reasonable and necessary to order the following:

1. A state of emergency is declared for Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, Branch, and Cass counties.
2. The Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division of the Department of State Police must coordinate and maximize all state efforts and may call upon all state departments to use available resources to assist in the designated areas pursuant to the Michigan Emergency Management Plan.

3. The state of emergency is terminated at such time as the threats to public health, safety, and property caused by the emergency no longer exist, and appropriate programs have been implemented to recover from the effects of this emergency, but in no case later than June 4, 2024, unless extended as provided by the Emergency Management Act.

Date: May 7, 2024

Time: 9:31 pm



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GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR



By the Governor



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SECRETARY OF STATE