

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 05.08.2024

CONTACT: Taylor Koopman, PIO tpkoop@kalcounty.com 269-383-8651

## Kalamazoo County Declares a State of Emergency

KALAMAZOO, Mich. – Kalamazoo County Government has declared a local state of emergency in response to the significant damage caused by multiple tornadoes within the County. As recovery efforts continue, various agencies and organizations are working tirelessly to restore normalcy to affected areas and assist those in need.

The tornadoes caused substantial damage in several areas, including Centre Street up to Shearing and Westnedge up to Angling Rd. Portage Public Safety has reported that door-to-door checks are being conducted in the hardest-hit areas.

The FedEx building on Portage Rd. and Pavilion Estates mobile home park both sustained extensive damage, with employees trapped inside FedEx at one point and entire homes destroyed at Pavilion.

"Portage first responders have ensured all employees are safely out of the FedEx building," said Rick Fuller, Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office. "And our teams have also completed their search and rescue at Pavilion Estates and have confirmed 16 to 20 injuries at this time, with no casualties."

Michigan State Police Emergency Management/Homeland Security Division has shared a damage self-reporting tool that allows users to mark points on a map where they have observed damage to infrastructure, homes, etc. The tool may be accessed here: <u>https://arcg.is/10ab1j</u>

The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County is actively clearing debris and addressing road closures to facilitate access to emergency services. Meanwhile, non-profit organizations such as Gryphon Place are mobilizing community resources to support recovery efforts.

Residents needing shelter or other resources are encouraged to contact 211 for assistance and support. Meanwhile, non-emergency calls should be directed to 269-888-8911.

The County Sheriff's Office continues to closely monitor the situation and urges residents to exercise caution, stay home if possible, and follow official updates from local authorities.

For further information and updates, residents are advised to visit the Kalamazoo County Government website and follow official social media channels.

###

## RESOURCES

• Shelter Information:

Kalamazoo Assembly of God 5550 Oakland Dr., Portage, MI

- Consumers Energy Outage Dashboard: <u>https://www.consumersenergy.com/outages/check-outage</u>
- Damage Self Reporting Tool: https://arcg.is/10ab1j
- Resource Lines: 211 – Gryphon Place 269-488-8911 – non-emergency calls