



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Kalamazoo County Declares a State of Emergency

KALAMAZOO, Mich. – Kalamazoo County Government and the City of Kalamazoo have declared a local state of emergency due to the widespread impacts from the historic Feb. 23-23 Severe Weather/Ice Storm. The storm has resulted in hundreds of downed trees and power lines, widespread power outages and damages to public infrastructure.

The City's available resources to fully respond and recover have been exhausted, which is causing significant strain on our community's ability to respond safely during this time. The city is requesting assistance from Kalamazoo County to continue helping citizens recover from this weather event.

As of this morning, nearly 40% of Kalamazoo County residences were without power. Some customers are seeing restoration estimates of Monday, Feb. 27, and others as late as March 1. In response, the Red Cross has opened a 24-hour shelter at the Douglass Community Association located at 1000 W. Paterson St. in Kalamazoo. The Red Cross will provide cots, food, and water, but bringing your own bedding is highly encouraged.

The safety of our residents is our top priority as we work through this storm. Please stay clear of any downed trees or power lines that could be live, and do not attempt to remove them yourself. If you see a downed tree blocking a road or street, please report it by calling Consumers Energy at (800) 477-5050. Only call 911 to report life or death emergencies.

"With continued high winds, we are expecting further outages and downed trees. Thank you to our first responders, who are working tirelessly to clear the roads," said Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners Chair John Taylor. "Please stay safe as we come together as a community to pull through this storm."

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