



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local state of emergency to end for Kalamazoo County

KALAMAZOO, Mich. – The Kalamazoo County Office of Emergency Management announced yesterday evening that all essential services are operating normally ahead of the local state of emergency ending on Thursday.

As of 5 p.m. on Tuesday, all categories on the [OEM's Community Lifelines](#), which uses the standard "traffic light protocol" adopted from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, were classified as "Green," indicating regular operations.

Consumers Energy is [currently reporting](#) 0.1% of customers – or 29 households – are still without power, noting the complexity of required repairs and scattered additional outages as weakened trees impact wires.

The National Weather Service of Grand Rapids is [currently forecasting](#) hazardous weather conditions, estimating "a swath of 4" or more of wet snow" to hit the southern part of Lower Michigan this Friday, "with generally less than 0.10" of icing expected." The NWS detailed forecast also says "winds could gust as high as 55 mph."

Michiganders should be aware that high winds and potential ice buildup could cause further isolated power outages and are encouraged to take precautions as they can. The Kalamazoo County Office of Emergency Management will continue to monitor the situation and coordinate with local first responders and Consumers Energy in response.

The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department warns that cold will pose a greater risk Friday as wind chill temperatures may drop to the mid-teens to 20s during the day and single digits to 10 degrees at night.

For information on warming shelter locations and availability within Kalamazoo County, contact Gryphon Place 211 or visit <https://www.gryphon.org/211>. Important public health reminders are included below to keep our community safe and informed.

Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners Chair John Taylor, Vice Chair Tami Rey, and Vice Chair Pro Tempore Jeff Heppler are grateful for the community response and continue to urge compassion.

"Thank you to the emergency responders, crews and volunteers who have worked tirelessly for the past week to get us back on track. We are proud to be part of a community that looks out for one another when times are tough."

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PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC HEALTH REMINDERS

Hypothermia:

Prolonged exposure to extreme cold can cause [hypothermia](#), a dangerously low body temperature, and frostbite. Those most at risk of hypothermia include older adults with inadequate food, clothing or heating, babies sleeping in cold rooms, and people who remain outdoors for long periods.

Signs of hypothermia include shivering, exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech, and drowsiness. If you notice signs of hypothermia, it is important to act quickly:

- Get the person into a warm room or shelter.
- Remove any wet clothing the person is wearing.
- Warm the center of the person's body—chest, neck, head, and groin—using an electric blanket, if available. You can also use skin-to-skin contact under loose, dry layers of blankets, clothing, towels, or sheets.
- Warm drinks can help increase body temperature, but do not give alcoholic drinks. Do not try to give beverages to an unconscious person.
- After body temperature increases, keep the person dry and wrap their body, including their head and neck, in a warm blanket.
- Get the person proper medical attention as soon as possible.

Frostbite:

Frostbite typically affects the extremities, such as the nose, ears, cheeks, fingers, and toes. A person with frostbite may not know they have it until someone else points it out because the frozen parts of their body are numb.

If you notice redness or pain in any skin area, get out of the cold or protect any exposed skin – frostbite may be setting in. Any of the following signs may point to frostbite:

- A white or grayish-yellow skin area
- Skin that feels unusually firm or waxy
- Numbness

Frozen Pipes:

Frozen pipes are another potential concern when temperatures drop below freezing. Tips to prevent frozen pipes in your home include:

- Keep the thermostat at the same temperature day and night. Although you may see an increase in the heating bill, you can prevent a costly repair if your pipes freeze and burst.
- Insulate pipes that are found in cold, drafty places around the home
- Let cold water drip from the faucet when the weather is very cold. Even a trickle of water helps prevent pipes from freezing.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warm air to circulate around the plumbing. Move any harmful cleaners or chemicals away from children.
- Keep garage doors closed if there are water supply lines in the garage.

- If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home and set it to a temperature no lower than 55 degrees.

Generator and Gas Oven Safety

And finally, [generator and gas oven safety](#) remain a serious concern. Remember to never use a portable generator inside your home or garage, even if the doors and windows are open—due to the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. Please follow these guidelines when using a generator:

- Only use generators outdoors, more than 20 feet away from your home, doors, and windows.
- Do not use a generator in an open garage or carport.
- Only use a generator after first checking that battery-powered CO detectors are properly functioning in your home.