



Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Severe Thunderstorms Possible for Northwest Michigan – Stay Safe during Cleanup; Be Aware of Hanging Tree Debris

Grand Traverse County – With severe thunderstorms possible later today, the County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, and the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD) is reminding residents and visitors in northwest Michigan to be aware of hanging tree debris that could pose a danger during a storm.

The National Weather Service is forecasting the possibility of severe thunderstorms with damaging winds and isolated tornadoes throughout northern Lower Peninsula between noon and 7 p.m. today.

“The storm we experienced on August 2 has created future hazards just waiting to happen. A subsequent storm can cause trees dislodged by the previous storm to fall, and hanging debris and branches to come down,” said Gregg Bird, Grand Traverse County’s Emergency Management Coordinator. “Be attentive to your surroundings when you are outdoors, and take precautions on your own property to eliminate potential dangerous situations.” Bird also reminds residents that Grand Traverse County is still under the governor’s declaration of a “state of disaster.”

The MSP/EMHSD warns residents to take appropriate precautions in anticipation of a storm:

- Remove hanging trees and branches that could fall on your home or vehicles with strong winds.
- Postpone outdoor clean-up activities until the storm has passed.
- Secure outdoor objects that could be blown around, such as tarps, trashcans, and other cleanup materials.
- Prepare for a power outage with flashlights and new batteries, and charge phones and other electronic devices.

Bird urges all Grand Traverse County residents to sign up for **CodeRED alerts to receive breaking emergency and weather updates. Visit www.grandtraverse.org on line, and click on the CodeRED logo.**

About the Disaster

Governor Rick Snyder declared a "state of disaster" on August 10 in Grand Traverse County, following severe thunderstorms, which caused widespread and severe damage August 2. Upon direction of the governor, the MSP/EMHSD amended the declaration to include Leelanau County on August 14. By declaring a "state of disaster," the state of Michigan has made available all state resources in cooperation with local response and recovery efforts in the disaster area.

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