



KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT
Lawrence A. Stelma – Sheriff

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kent County Storm Recovery Efforts Underway

GRAND RAPIDS – Kent County Emergency Management has been working since the early morning hours to determine the severity of storm damage throughout the County. Thus far, no injuries have been reported due to storm damage in Kent County. Public works crews throughout the County are working to remove debris in roadways and utility crews are working to repair downed power lines.

More than 50,000 people lost power in Kent County this morning. “Because of the busy activity of our responders, we are not going to run the monthly siren tests throughout Kent County at noon today,” said Jack Stewart, Emergency Management Coordinator for Kent County. “Monthly testing will resume August 4. We want to focus today’s efforts on the more immediate needs of our communities.”

Kent County Road Commission has additional crews working to remove large trees from roads. “Much of the work is from Five Mile Road through southern Kent County at this time,” said Jerry Byrne, Director of Operations of the Kent County Road Commission. “Right now, the Alto area has significant damage, with trees in the road on Whitneyville Avenue and on Buttrick Avenue SE. If you see our crews, please either turn around or proceed with caution.”

Central dispatch in Kent County has been busy responding to calls all morning. Kent County Emergency Management staff reminds residents:

- If you see a downed power line, do not approach it!!! Call 911.
- If you have lost power, report it to your energy provider either by phone or online.
- If you plan to use a power generator, follow manufacturer instructions. DO NOT use a generator in the garage or basement of a home and make sure there is good clearance for exhaust to move away from your home. Carbon monoxide, the gas that is produced by a generator, can be odorless, tasteless and deadly.
- Now is a good time to make sure you have a plan for storm-related damage. Make sure you have a week’s supply of water, several days of non-perishable food, flashlights/batteries, a first aid kit, and a weather radio. Several apps are available for smartphones, including weather warning apps and incident preparation apps.

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