



# Lake County Emergency Management

## Press Release

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This afternoon Lake County Board of Commission Chairperson, Howard Lodholtz, declared a Local State of Emergency in accordance with Section 10 of Public Act 390 of 1976.

Flood waters from melting snow and ice, combined with precipitation in recent days, has caused flooding and erosion to several roads in Lake County. Many roads are closed either from washed out surfaces or due to standing water.

The declaration is the first step in mobilizing resources and taking steps to mitigate damage to property and the potential for injury and loss of life. The action comes after County Officials, along with Michigan State Police Lt Orville Theaker (EMHSD) and Donald Divis (Lake County Acting EM Director), met and conducted a tour of washed out roadways throughout Lake County.

“Although spring thawing and occasional flooding is a routine occurrence; I have never seen it this bad,” commented Chairperson Lodholtz. “Saddler Road is completely washed-out. I was here during the 1986 local flooding and it was nowhere near this bad.”

County Officials emphasized that it’s important for the public to obey any signage or barricades on the roadways and be extremely cautious in driving through any standing water or flooded roadways. “You simply don’t know what is beneath the water. There could be dips, debris, or even a washed out roadway. It’s hard to tell how deep the water actually is,” stated Director Divis. “Disregarding these warning signs can put you, your families, and even first responders in danger.”

Unless extended by the Lake County Board of Commissioners, the Local Declaration is valid for 7 days and allows local authorities time to assess the extent of the damage to determine whether they are beyond the scope of local resources and if a state of emergency should be requested from the Governor.