



OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
04.01.2025

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Kalamazoo County Encourages Preparedness Ahead of Severe Weather Forecast

KALAMAZOO, Mich. – With another round of severe thunderstorms forecasted for Wednesday, Kalamazoo County officials are urging residents to take precautions now. Recent storms have already had a serious impact on the region, and with more hazardous weather expected, residents are urged to stay alert and be ready for the possibility of strong winds, hail, flooding, and potential tornadoes.

As power restoration efforts continue across Southwest Michigan, officials are reminding residents to prepare for the possibility of more outages or emergency conditions.

“Our community has already experienced the very real and painful effects of recent storms, and we understand how overwhelming this kind of weather can be,” said Brandi Janes, Kalamazoo County Emergency Management Director. “As we approach the one-year anniversary of the May 7 tornado, it's a powerful reminder to stay weather-aware. While we can't control the storms, we can take steps to keep ourselves and each other as safe as possible: by having multiple ways to receive alerts, reviewing emergency plans, and checking in on neighbors.”

Severe Weather Safety Tips

- **Have multiple ways to receive alerts** (weather apps, NOAA weather radio, local news).
- **Charge phones and backup power sources** in case of outages.
- **Stay indoors and away from windows** during storms.
- **Secure outdoor items** like patio furniture, grills, and trash bins.
- **Avoid driving through flooded roads** — *Turn Around, Don't Drown*.
- **Identify your safe shelter location**, such as a basement or interior room without windows.
- **Keep a flashlight and emergency kit** accessible. www.ready.gov/kit
- **Check on neighbors**, especially those who are elderly or have mobility issues.

For additional preparedness tips, residents are encouraged to visit www.ready.gov/severe-weather for guidance on how to prepare for storms, including tips for staying safe during high winds, hail, flooding, and tornadoes.

The Office of Emergency Management will continue to monitor conditions and share updates as needed. Residents are encouraged to stay connected through the County's official channels and local media for timely updates and safety information.

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