



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II  
LT. GOVERNOR

## **EXECUTIVE ORDER**

**No. 2021-12**

### **Declaration of State of Emergency**

On August 11, 2021, two fast-moving storm systems swept through the lower peninsula of Michigan, bringing heavy rain and damaging winds that exceeded 60 miles an hour. The counties of Branch, St. Joseph, and Hillsdale experienced strong winds that caused significant damage to trees, property, and critical infrastructure and resulted in prolonged power outages.

In response, the counties of Branch, St. Joseph, and Hillsdale each declared local states of emergency, and local disaster response and recovery operations were activated. Despite these efforts, local resources have proven insufficient to cope with the situation. State assistance and other outside resources are necessary to respond to and recover from the impacts of this emergency; protect public health, safety, and property; and lessen or avert the threat of more severe and lasting harm.

Section 1 of article 5 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 vests the executive power of the State of Michigan in the governor. Under the Emergency Management Act, 1976 PA 390, as amended, MCL 30.403(4), “[t]he governor shall, by executive order or proclamation, declare a state of emergency if he or she finds that an emergency has occurred or that the threat of an emergency exists.”

Therefore, acting under the Michigan Constitution of 1963 and Michigan law, including the Emergency Management Act, 1976 PA 390, as amended, MCL 30.401 to 30.421, I find it reasonable and necessary to order the following:

1. A state of emergency is declared for the counties of Branch, St. Joseph, and Hillsdale.
2. The Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division of the Department of State Police must coordinate and maximize all state efforts and may call upon all state departments to use available resources to assist in the designated area under the Michigan Emergency Management Plan.

3. The state of emergency is terminated when the threats to public health, safety, and property caused by the emergency no longer exist, and appropriate programs have been implemented to recover from the effects of this emergency, but in no case later than September 20, 2021 unless extended as provided by the Emergency Management Act.



Date: August 23, 2021

Time: 2:35 p.m.

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GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

By the Governor

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SECRETARY OF STATE