

## Media Status Update: State of Indiana Response to Flooding

Aug. 31, 2026 at 1730

*New information is in bold italics*

### **DEVELOPING SITUATION**

A confirmed derecho impacted the state and resulted in widespread damaging winds, at least two (2) tornadoes, large hail and flash flooding. Persistent rainfall remained in the area due to high moisture and extreme instability that began on Aug. 11, 2026. The State Emergency Operations Center increased staffing levels on Aug. 12 for coordination and resource support, increasing to a Level III (Emergency Conditions).

Governor Mike Braun issued a statewide disaster declaration for the severe weather and flooding on Aug. 13, 2026.

County Emergency Declarations:

Active: Fayette, Hamilton, Hancock, ***Jasper***, Madison, Pulaski and Union

Expired: Carroll, Cass, Dearborn, Decatur, Delaware, Fountain, Franklin, Henry, ***Lake***, LaPorte, Marion, Marshall, Morgan, ***Parke***, Porter, Putnam, Randolph, Rush, Starke, Tipton, Wayne, Warren and Vermillion

If a county has issued an emergency declaration, this means the county board of commissioners has determined that conditions may cause emergency services to be impacted or delayed. A county emergency declaration initiates county emergency plans and allows additional resources to be provided by the state to assist local response efforts.

### **STATE RESPONSE**

In addition to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, other agencies supporting the state-level incident response included the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (211), Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana Department of Administration, Indiana Department of Health, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, Indiana State Police, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Department of Correction, Indiana National Guard, the American Red Cross, the National Weather Service and Federal Emergency Management Agency Integration Team members.

[The State Disaster Relief Fund – Individual Assistance is now available.](#) Impacted Hoosiers may qualify for emergency aid grants of up to \$5,000. This fund is designed to help families secure essential items like clothing and uninsured medical devices while they are displaced from their homes. Applications are currently under review. Preliminary eligibility determinations will begin within the week. Eligible applicants will be contacted to provide proof of identity and address, as well as other basic information necessary to issue payment.

Since taking office, Gov. Braun has opened the state disaster relief fund for individual assistance five (5) times:

- Several severe weather events in March/April of 2025, including a mine collapse in southern Indiana. The maximum amount available was capped at \$2,000 for individual assistance.
- Severe weather and flooding in Monroe, Greene and Daviess counties in May and June of 2025. The maximum amount available was capped at \$2,000 for individual assistance.
- Severe weather in March of 2026 in northern Indiana. The maximum amount was not capped.
- Severe weather in June of 2026 for 63 counties across Indiana. The maximum amount is not capped.
- And most recently, for severe weather and flooding in August of 2026 statewide. The maximum amount is capped at \$5,000.

On the evening of Aug. 20, 2026, Gov. Braun requested an expedited major disaster declaration. A copy of the request can be found on [IDHS' August Disaster Resource Hub](#). This request was approved by President Trump on Aug. 25, 2026. More information can be found below.

FSSA (Indiana 211): Indiana 211 published the [Indiana Disaster Dashboard](#), which breaks down damage reports collected by Indiana 211 by county and request types. This dashboard helps support recovery efforts and paints a bigger picture of the impact the Aug. 11 events had on Hoosiers. Additionally, 211 now offers a texting service that allows residents to quickly access local resources. To use it, text IN211HELP to 898-211.

IDEM: On Aug. 25, IDEM released a press release titled “IDEM Reminds Residents to Sort and Safely Dispose of Flood Debris.” The release outlines how disaster debris should be organized into proper categories, highlights best practices for safe cleanup and provides guidance and resources for residents. The full release can be found on [IDEM's website](#).

IHCDA: IHCDA's disaster assistance offers two (2) options to support households displaced by recent flooding and storms in Indiana. Displaced means that a home is not currently safe or habitable. An eligible household must select only (1) one of the two (2) options - vouchers for temporary hotel stay or rental assistance. Households do not receive direct cash benefits from IHCDA. All payments are made directly to hotels or landlords, and total costs vary based on the hotel or apartment chosen, unit size and local market conditions. The first step in the process is to call 211 to report damage. 211 will make referrals to IHCDA for clients who may qualify for IHCDA's assistance programs.

IDOI: On Aug. 17, Indiana Department of Insurance Commissioner Holly Lambert issued a bulletin due to the recent severe weather calling for a 60-day moratorium for cancellation of any insurance policy in effect for any policyholder directly affected by the disaster events residing within the state of Indiana, and a suspension of any penalty attached to the late payment therein. This moratorium took effect on Aug. 17, but the Indiana Department of Insurance expects insurers to apply this moratorium retroactively to the day before the disaster occurred in Indiana. Read the full moratorium [here](#).

## **Mission requests:**

Missions are requests submitted by county emergency management agencies and local officials to the state when community needs exceed local capabilities and require additional state support.

The state has completed ***eighty-two (82)*** mission requests to date, with three (3) missions currently deployed and being utilized.

Examples of completed missions include:

- ***Supplied a shelter in Gary with diapers, wipes and formula to support mothers and babies.***

Examples of deployed missions include:

- No new missions to report.

## **FEDERAL RESPONSE**

On Aug. 15, 2026, President Trump approved an Emergency Declaration for the state of Indiana to enable FEMA to directly support the ongoing response to flooding for 53 counties. The declaration allowed FEMA to provide direct federal assistance, including specialized teams, equipment, supplies and technical support, as needed, to help Indiana protect lives, restore essential services, clear roads for emergency access and keep communities safe. FEMA has also coordinated support from other federal agencies, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, National Weather Service, Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigations, Transportation Security Administration and other federal partners, to assist with response and recovery efforts.

Indiana Department of Homeland Security and FEMA personnel began conducting aerial joint preliminary damage assessments throughout the state on Aug. 18, 2026. Joint preliminary damage assessments were completed as of Aug. 21, 2026. Joint preliminary damage assessments are the first step to collect the information needed to request a major disaster declaration.

***IDHS and FEMA personnel are performing additional joint preliminary damage assessments this week for public assistance in the following counties: Cass, Fountain, Marion, Morgan, Parke, Pike, Pulaski, Randolph, Rush, Starke, Union, Vermillion and Union. These JPDAs are being performed to determine if additional designations need to be made as part of the major disaster declaration.***

On the evening of Aug. 25, 2026, Indiana's request for a Major Disaster Declaration was approved. As a result, FEMA's disaster assistance is now available, including both Individual Assistance and Public Assistance. Impacted residents can apply for Individual Assistance at [disasterassistance.gov](https://disasterassistance.gov). To learn more about the program or to see which counties are eligible, please review [FEMA's press release](#).

Mobile Registration Intake Centers (MRIC) opened Friday, Aug. 28, and remain available to support disaster survivors. Representatives at these centers provide in-person assistance, answer questions and help homeowners and renters apply for FEMA's Individual Assistance program. To view MRIC locations and hours of operation, visit [on.in.gov/August2026Disaster](https://on.in.gov/August2026Disaster). Additional dates, times and locations will be announced as services continue to expand.

*As of 1200, FEMA has recorded more than 22,000 registrations for assistance. The total visits at MRICs across the state on Friday was 318 individuals, and 312 visited on Saturday.*

*To learn more about FEMA's individual assistance process, [watch this video](#).*

*In response to a Presidential disaster declaration issued Aug. 25, the [U.S. Small Business Administration](#) announced the availability of low interest disaster loans for Indiana businesses, private nonprofit organizations, and residents affected by severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, and flooding beginning Aug. 11. The declaration covers Indiana primary counties of Carroll, Dearborn, Decatur, Delaware, Fayette, Franklin, Hamilton, Hancock, Henry, LaPorte, Lake, Madison, Marion, Morgan, Porter, Pulaski, Randolph, Rush, Tipton, Union, and Wayne, which are eligible for both [physical damage loans](#) and [Economic Injury Disaster Loans](#) from SBA. Small businesses and most private nonprofit organizations in the following adjacent counties are eligible to apply only for SBA EIDLs: Indiana counties of Bartholomew, Blackford, Boone, Brown, Cass, Clinton, Fulton, Grant, Hendricks, Howard, Jasper, Jay, Jennings, Johnson, Marshall, Monroe, Newton, Ohio, Owen, Putnam, Ripley, Shelby, St. Joseph, Starke, Tippecanoe, and White, and the Illinois counties of Cook, Kankakee, and Will, as well as the Kentucky county of Boone, and the Michigan county of Berrien, and the Ohio counties of Butler, Darke, Hamilton, and Preble. Businesses and nonprofits are eligible to apply for business physical disaster loans and may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets.*

*Homeowners and renters are eligible to apply for home and personal property loans and may borrow up to \$100,000 to replace or repair personal property, such as clothing, furniture, cars, and appliances. Homeowners may apply for up to \$500,000 to replace or repair their primary residence. Applicants may also be eligible for a loan increase of up to 20% of their physical damage, as verified by SBA, for mitigation purposes. Eligible mitigation improvements include strengthening structures to protect against high wind damage, upgrading to wind rated garage doors, and installing a safe room or storm shelter to help protect property and occupants from future damage. The SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program is available to eligible small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, and private nonprofits — including faith-based organizations — impacted by financial losses directly related to this disaster. The SBA is unable to provide disaster loans to agricultural producers, farmers, or ranchers, except for aquaculture enterprises. EIDLs are for working capital needs caused by the disaster and are available even if the business or private nonprofit did not suffer any physical damage. The loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills which could not be paid due to the disaster. Interest rates are as low as 4% for businesses, 3.625% for private nonprofits, and 3% for homeowners and renters, with terms up to 30 years. Interest does not begin to accrue, and payments are not due until 12 months from the date of the first*

*loan disbursement. The SBA determines eligibility and sets loan amounts and terms based on each applicant's financial condition. To apply online, visit [sba.gov/disaster](https://sba.gov/disaster). Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov) for more information on SBA disaster assistance. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.*

*The filing deadline for returning applications for physical property damage is Oct. 25. The deadline to return economic injury applications is May 25, 2027.*

## **POWER OUTAGES**

*No significant power outages reported.*

## **SHELTERS**

*As 1600, eight (8) shelters were open throughout the state, six (6) by the American Red Cross, and two (2) partner/independent shelters, with a total population of 179.*

More information can be found here: <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/disaster-relief-and-recovery-services/find-an-open-shelter.html>

## **FATALITIES**

Seven (7) people have died in storm-related incidents since the storm system began on Aug. 11 in the following counties: Delaware (2), Henry, Lake, LaPorte, Jennings and Porter.

Specific details on timelines and circumstances are still being confirmed.

IDHS is aware of an additional fatality in Monroe County. As of Aug. 21, 2026, it has been confirmed that this incident was not directly related to the storms that impacted Indiana beginning on Aug. 11. The official number of total number fatalities directly related to this disaster now seven (7) deaths.

## **ASSISTANCE REQUESTS AND DAMAGE REPORTING**

The August Disaster Resource Hub is now available. The hub serves as a comprehensive resource center for individuals seeking state and federal assistance and updates related to the severe weather events that began on Aug. 11. Learn more: [on.in.gov/August2026Disaster](https://on.in.gov/August2026Disaster).

[Indiana's State Disaster Relief Fund](#) will provide up to \$5,000 in emergency aid grants to Hoosiers in need of assistance. This fund will enable families to get the basics like clothing and uninsured medical devices while they are displaced from their homes.

Indiana 211 is accepting damage reports for Cass, Dearborn, Delaware, Fayette, Franklin, Hamilton, Hancock, Henry, *Jasper*, Lake, LaPorte, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Miami, Morgan,

Newton, Parke, Pike, Porter, Pulaski, Putnam, Randolph, Rush, Tipton, Warren and Wayne counties for severe weather impacting these communities beginning Aug. 11. To help establish a comprehensive assessment of damage, residents can call 866-211-9966 or visit the Indiana 211 website ([on.in.gov/IN-211](https://on.in.gov/IN-211)).

### **SAFE TRAVEL**

- Hoosiers can find more information on INDOT routes that are currently closed due to flooding by using the INDOT TrafficWise tool online at <https://511in.org/> or through the INDOT TrafficWise mobile app.
- Check with city, town and county highway departments for the most up-to-date information on local roads affected by flooding.
- The IDHS Travel Advisory Map at <https://www.in.gov/dhs/travel-advisory-map/> is available to view county travel status information.
- High water continues to require the closure of some roads. Do not ignore “high water” warning signs or drive around barricades closing roads for flooding. Individuals traveling at night, when it is more difficult to see flood dangers, should be especially cautious.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS**

- Flood water is not safe to swim or play in. Flood water contains various contaminants, chemicals and other dangerous pollutants that can make people and animals sick. Keep children, pets and livestock out of flood water as much as possible.
- Well water in flood-affected areas may be contaminated with pathogens and be unsafe to drink. Residents who use wells should contact their local health department to coordinate testing to ensure their water sources are safe to drink. Local health department contact information can be found on the IDOH website at <https://www.in.gov/health/lhd/local-health-department-map>.
- Mold is a significant issue after a flood and may not be immediately visible. Those with affected homes or businesses should remove items that have been wet for two or more days. A mixture of bleach and water (no more than one cup of bleach per gallon of water) can be used on rigid surfaces such as countertops, floors, sinks and stoves and plastic toys.
- No one who sees or experiences a disaster is untouched by it. Loss from flooding is no exception. Disaster stress and grief are normal, but there is help available if someone in the family needs mental health assistance/counseling. Immediate, free emotional support is available 24/7 by calling or texting 988 to reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, or by calling or texting the Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990.

### **FLOOD SAFETY AND CLEANUP**

The Red Cross has provided steps for people to follow if their community is affected by flooding:

- Continue listening to local radio or television stations or a NOAA Weather Radio for updated information and instructions. If away from home, return only when authorities say it is safe to do so.

- Before entering the home, look outside for loose power lines, damaged gas lines, foundation cracks or other damage.
- If the smell of natural or propane gas is present or a hissing sound is audible, leave immediately and call the fire department.
- If power lines are down outside the home, do not step in puddles or standing water.
- Make sure all food and water are safe. Discard items that have come in contact with flood water.
- When in doubt, throw it out!
- During cleanup, wear protective clothing, including rubber gloves and rubber boots.

In the aftermath of flooding and other natural disasters, property owners are vulnerable -- making perfect targets for scammers pretending to offer help cleaning up wreckage and making necessary repairs. When working with someone offering services:

- Avoid agreeing to any repair or restoration work on the spot during initial contact with someone offering services – this includes contracts.
- Avoid signing any legally binding agreements without first gathering information and researching a business being represented.
- Obtain information about the individual offering his or her services.
- Research the company the individual claims to represent.
- Look for signs of credibility such as an official website.
- Seek reviews and testimonials from former customers.

For more information about actions before, during and after flooding, visit [www.GetPrepared.in.gov](http://www.GetPrepared.in.gov).

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**For Media Only:** Indiana Department of Homeland Security Office of Public Affairs 317-234-6713, [pio@dhs.in.gov](mailto:pio@dhs.in.gov)