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City Responds to Major Storm Damage

(LANSING) – In the aftermath of powerful thunderstorms that swept through the Lansing area in the early morning hours, causing widespread property damage across the City, Mayor Virg Bernero and the City's emergency operations team activated a comprehensive emergency response plan to ensure that the public safety is secured.

“Extensive damage to trees, power lines and property has occurred throughout the City,” Mayor Virg Bernero said. “Storm damage assessments are continuing and public service and utility crews have been out since early this morning clearing local roads and repairing power lines affected by downed trees and other debris.”

City officials outlined plans to assist Lansing residents in cleaning up storm-related damage. “The next few weeks will be a challenge for all of us as we work together to clean up the damage from these storms,” Mayor Bernero said. “I ask our residents to be patient, but also to be assured that we will be working in every neighborhood in the City to help remove the debris caused by these violent storms,” he said.

Lansing Police and Fire

Lansing Police and Fire have been working around the clock to respond to dozens of calls related to the recent storm events. No major incidents were reported to the Lansing Police Department as a result of the storms, Lansing Police Chief Mark Alley said. The Lansing Fire Department reported one electrical fire at a Lansing residence due to water damage to a basement electrical circuit. No injuries resulted from the incident.

Storm Debris Pickup

Lansing's Department of Public Service reports that residents are asked to use the following guidelines in preparing storm-related debris for pick up by City crews:

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- All material less than two inches in diameter should be cut to a length of not more than 4 feet, bundled and stacked on the public right-of-way adjacent to the street.
- All material greater than two inches in diameter should be cut to a length of not more than 4 feet with branches removed and placed on the right-of-way adjacent to the street. Care should be taken not to block sidewalks, driveways or other access points.
- City crews will collect the materials on or after the next regularly scheduled yard waste pickup dates for your area.
- Residents can report downed trees or other debris that is blocking city streets by calling the Operations and Maintenance Division 24-hour hotline at **483-4161**.
- Downed power lines should be reported to the Board of Water and Light at **371-6314 or 371-6000**.

Health and Safety Advisories

POWER LINES - Assume that any downed power line is HOT. If you are unsure if one you see has been reported please contact BWL at **877-295-5001**

STANDING WATER - The water may be energized. There is also a risk that fast rising water may have removed sewer covers. Do not drive through standing water as you do not know its depth or if there are hidden hazards.

HEALTH - Many people have messes to clean up. Pace yourself. Temperatures are going to be hot and humidity will be a factor. Dehydration can come on fast in these conditions.

FOOD SAFETY - The Ingham County Health Department advises residents that food should be discarded if the power to a refrigerator has been off for more than 12 hours. Food in deep freezers should be discarded if the power has been off for 72 hours.

FLOODED BASEMENTS - Area residents can visit the following website for information on how to deal with flooded basements and for general health advisories on food safety:

http://www.ingham.org/hd/ENVHLTH/Flooded_homes.htm

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