



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

COL. JOSEPH M. GASPER
DIRECTOR

May 22, 2022

Mr. Thomas C. Sivak, Regional Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Region V
536 South Clark Street, Sixth Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60605

Dear Mr. Sivak:

The Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD) is requesting the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to participate in a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) for Individual Assistance (IA) this week in partnership with the state and Otsego County.

As you are aware, the city of Gaylord continues to recover from the devastation that resulted from an EF-3 tornado, as rated by the National Weather Service (NWS), that struck the Otsego County community on the afternoon of May 20, 2022. The NWS advised that the tornado touched down at 3:38 pm, just ten minutes after an Integrated Public Alert and Warning System alert was issued. The tornado is estimated to have been on the ground for 26 minutes. Typically, tornados in the state of Michigan average just a couple of minutes on the ground.

Impacts from the tornado include two deaths, 44 injuries, destroyed businesses, structures, homes, and vehicles, along with road closures, downed power lines, widespread power outages, disrupted cellular phone service, and displaced residents.

Based on photos of the damage as well as information from local feedback, we feel that the damages warrant a joint FEMA/EMHSD PDA with the Small Business Association in Otsego County to assess the needs for IA. Due to the concentration of the damage, we feel three teams could complete the PDA withing a three-day timeframe. We are hoping to conduct this PDA starting on Wednesday, May 25, 2022.

If you or your staff have any questions concerning this request, please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Sweeney', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Capt. Kevin Sweeney
Deputy State Director of Emergency Management