



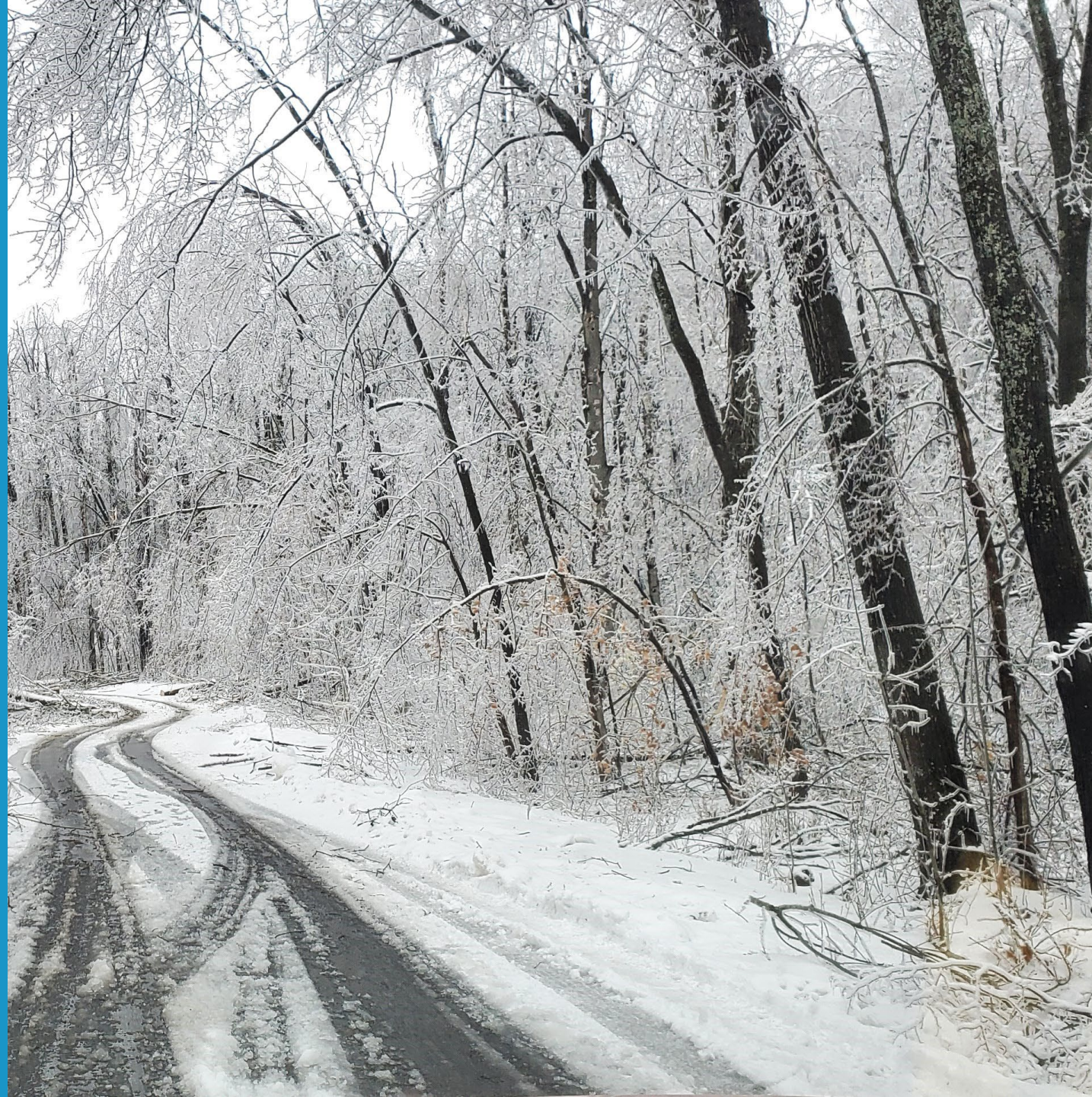
County Road Association
OF MICHIGAN

2025 Ice Storm – How we best help each other

*Winter Operations
Conference*

Jerry Byrne, Managing Director,
Kent County Road Commission
and CRA President.

October 22, 2025





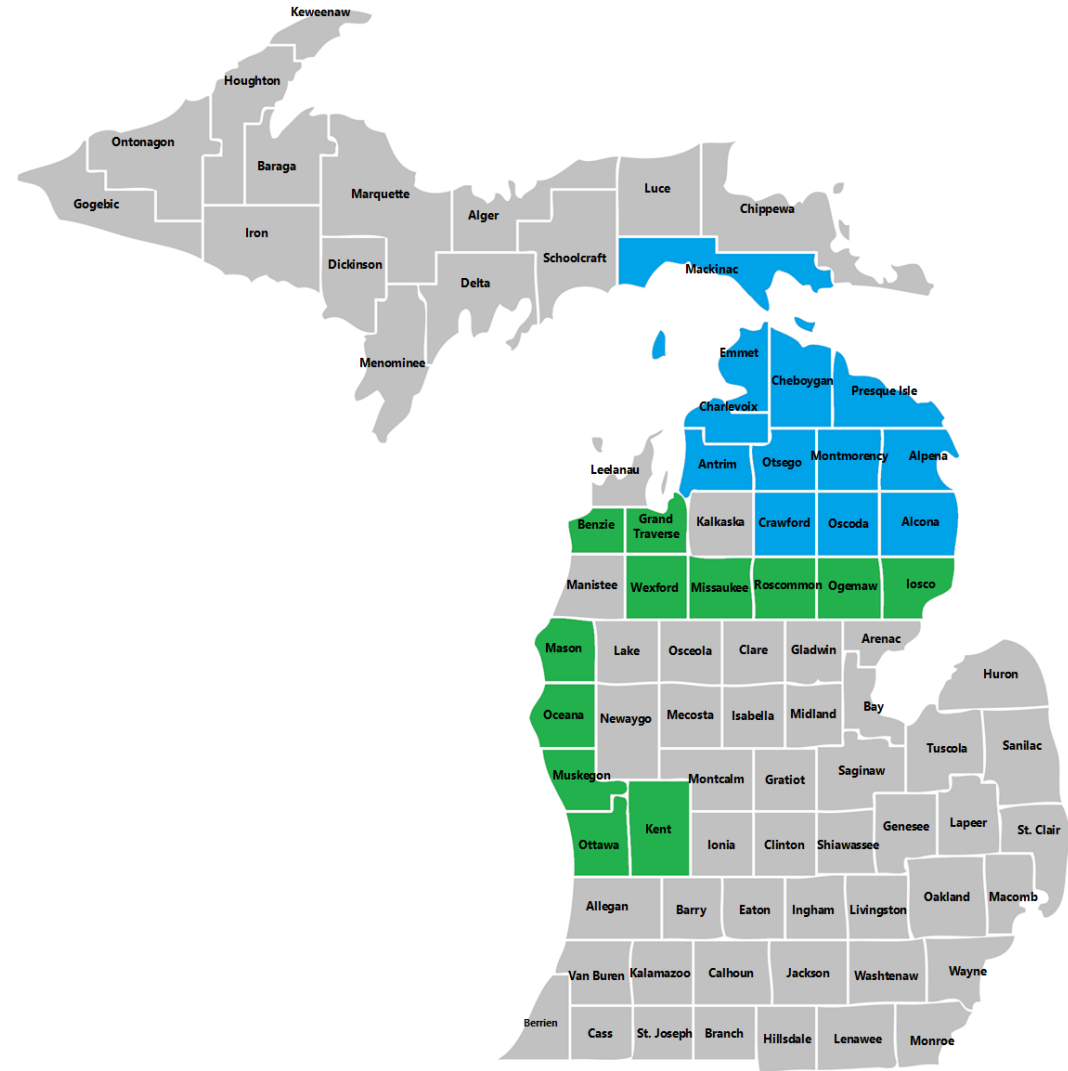
March 2025 12-county ice storm

State of Emergency declared

- Largest area of disaster in recent history.
- Assistance needed beyond one's neighbor.

 Affected county

 Assisting county



Work on state trunkline



\$2.1 M from MDOT for trunkline

- Assisting agencies needed Maint. Contract.
- Allowed impacted agency staff to focus on local system.
- Did **not** allow assisting agencies to address potential higher priorities on local system.



Local problem: Help please!



Can we work together through CRA to ask for help?

Methods of requesting assistance:

- Phone calls?
- Known contacts/networks?
- Text groups?
- Moving to centralized CRA-led platform?

The CRA Board, staff committed to innovation to better meet our collective needs!

CRA County Road Association OF MICHIGAN

Search

Roads ▾ About ▾ Business ▾ Events ▾ Newsroom ▾ Our People ▾ Associate Members ▾ Contact

CRA Mutual Aid Assistance Request Form

Is this request an emergency?
☐ Yes
☐ No

Road agency requesting support: *

Main contact:
Title

First Name *

Last Name *

Suffix

Phone number:

Email:

What is your immediate assistance need?

Estimated number of personnel needed:

Type of equipment needed:

DRAFT

Utilize strong CRA network



Public works has more resources altogether than any other industry!

- People/equipment/materials/contractors.
- Resource sharing through future mutual aid agreements.
- Tried-and-true regionally in MI, across other states.
 - APWA regions;
 - Other intergovernmental agreements.



Multi-million-dollar question

How do you pay for these events?

- Should agencies have emergency fund balance?
- SIB loans?
- Wait for outside help?
- CRA has bills introduced for Local Infrastructure Disaster Relief Program with \$\$.
- CRA role in program rule development.



Safety considerations



Safety poses unique challenges

- Power lines, traffic control, locations of med. centers/hospitals.
- Comms. Channels that work in crisis: Radios/800mz/cell phone.
- Maps, paper directions.
- Coordinate w/power companies.
- “Old school” won the day:
 - Limited cell service.
 - Paper maps with hi-lighter still worked!



Practice make perfect



Need to practice before the BIG GAME

- 2025 Ice Storm was NoMI's Super Bowl.
- Agencies won the game, but tape shows improvements possible.
- How to practice?
 - Get in the field.
 - Plow across county lines.
 - Lend resources in non-emergencies.

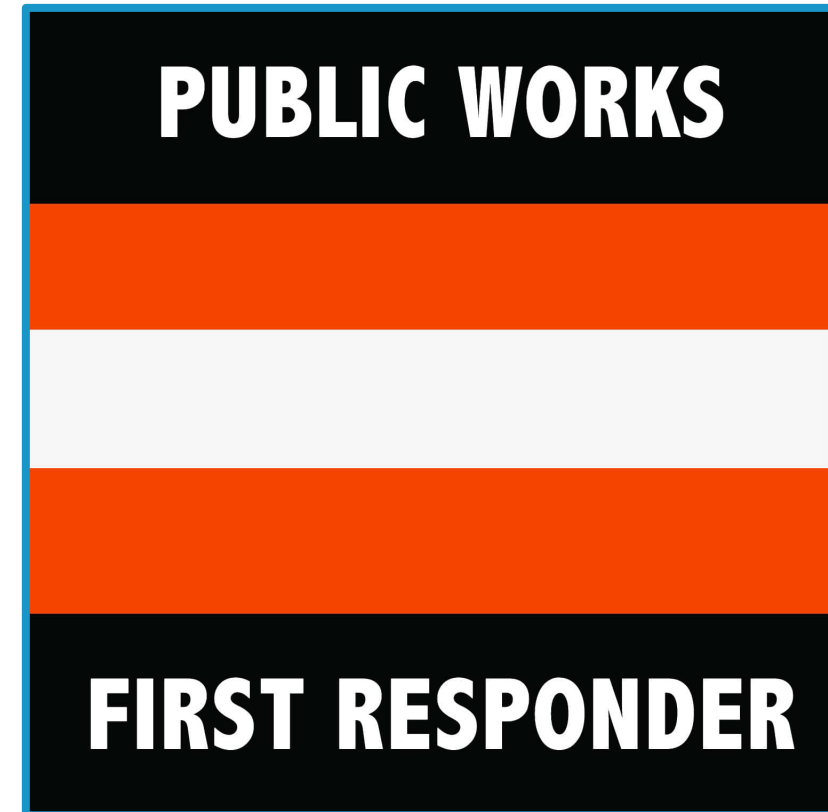


Toughest lesson learned...



Resist the temptation to join front line

- Priority #1 = Ask for help.
- Managers focus on big picture, coordination.
- Managing a large-scale event is critical and can't be done well while cutting trees.
- More help = better response.
- Don't let pride get in the way.



CRA's holistic approach

CRA developing support umbrella in concert with our superintendents, boots on the ground.

- Local Disaster Relief Program.
- FEMA declaration expertise, recovery consultants, immediate Zoom meetings, RFP coordination.
- ✓ Local Disaster Recovery Playbook.
- Coordination of resources.
- Profile of "best prepared" crisis resilient road agency.
- Look at intergovernmental agreements.
- Platform for resource options in State of Emergency.

Objective: Concrete plans by Summer 2026





**County Road Association
OF MICHIGAN**

Comments? Ideas?

Jerry Byrne
jbyrne@kentcountyroads.net

Dustin Earley, APR
dearley@micountyroads.org

County Road Association of Michigan
101 S. Washington Sq., Ste. 200
517.482.1189
micountyroads.org

