



# **NEWS RELEASE**

## **STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**News Release No. 8 – June 20, 2018**

### **Department of Natural Resources to Mobilize Incident Command Team at F.J. McLain State Park** *Storm Damage Work Continues; State Parks Remain Open*

**LANSING, MICH.** Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) crews were working today to set up a small incident command center, based out of F.J. McLain State Park in Houghton County, to organize and facilitate continuing storm-related damage assessment and safety inspection work on trails.

“The most-significant damage is along the Lake Linden Trail, which has been closed from the Portage Lift Bridge in Hancock to Normand Road, near Lake Linden,” said Jeff Kakuk, DNR western Upper Peninsula trails specialist. “We also have additional washouts on other trails and we are working to mark and fence these areas off.”

About 2,000 feet of snow fencing, 300 posts and trail signs were being gathered and sent to the area today to help block off some of the worst sections of trail damage.

All DNR trails in Houghton and Keweenaw County remain closed.

Beyond the Lake Linden Trail, other DNR trails with extensive damage include the Freda Trail, which has complete washouts in some places; there are also washouts on the Hancock to Calumet Trail from Houghton to Lake Annie Road.

DNR crews are being mobilized from various areas, including Tahquamenon Falls State Park and Grayling, to assist in the response effort. The incident command team is being mobilized from the DNR’s Incident Coordination Center in Marquette.

“We are working hard to make repairs and re-open trails and boating access sites. In some of these places, the scope of the damage is incredible,” said Doug Rich, DNR western U.P. district supervisor for the Parks and Recreation Division. “We are securing safety hazards, assessing potential continued risks and repairing our facilities where we can, with hopes of re-opening them soon. But we can’t re-open the trails and boating sites until we are sure they are safe to use.”

South of Houghton, the Chassell to Houghton Trail has major damage and complete washouts. The Pilgrim River bridge has been heavily damaged. The Bill Nicholls Trail is washed out in several places from Toivola to Houghton.

DNR boating access sites, under the supervision of staff at F.J. McLain State Park, closed until further notice include Lily Pond, Boston Pond and Bootjack on Portage Lake.

F.J. McLain State Park, north of Hancock, is only accessible from the north, as M-203 remains closed south of the park.

Farther west, in Iron and Gogebic counties, the Iron River to Marenisco trail has many downed trees and has not been re-opened. The MI-TRALE off-road vehicle club is working to clear the trail there.

Thunderstorms dumped as much as 7 inches of rain in 9 hours early Sunday that produced extensive flooding in Houghton and Keweenaw counties.

Many roads and streets were washed out from Lake Linden through Dollar Bay, Hancock and Houghton. Homes, businesses and other property was significantly damaged in many places.

The storm has claimed one fatality, a 12-year-old boy who died Tuesday after being rescued from a basement collapse at his home in Houghton.

For the latest information on closures of DNR-managed facilities, visit the DNR's webpage at: [www.michigan.gov/dnrclosures](http://www.michigan.gov/dnrclosures).

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*The SEOC is the emergency operations center for the state of Michigan. Located in Lansing, the SEOC is overseen by the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division and coordinates response and recovery efforts by state agencies and local government. The SEOC is staffed by members of state agencies for decision making and information coordination during disasters or emergencies in the state of Michigan.*

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