

Election Emergency Preparedness and Continuity Planning

June 20, 2024

Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks
(MAMC) Conference

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Agenda

1. Acknowledgements
2. “The interactive part”
3. Overview of Emergency Management
4. Setting the Stage: Ann Arbor
5. Election Day Exercise
6. Key Lessons Learned
7. Election EOP/Continuity of Operations
8. Preparing for November

Acknowledgements



Elections play a vital role in our democracy and are at risk



Emergencies can happen anywhere at anytime



Emergency planning is not a one size fits all solution



We don't have it all figured out; this is a work in progress

The Interactive Part



/

What is the size of your municipality?

/

Have you participated in an election emergency exercise?

/

Have you experienced an emergency
that has impacted your election
operations?

/

Do you work with your local
emergency manager on election
preparedness and planning?



Overview of Emergency Management

- Each County is required to appoint an Emergency Management Coordinator (Michigan Emergency Management Act, Public Act 390 of 1976)
 - Directory can be found at www.michigan.gov/msp/division/s/emhsd/local-emergency-management-programs
- The Emergency Management framework is designed to be scalable:
 - Local emergency management
 - Michigan State Police Emergency Management Homeland Security Division (MSP EMHSD)
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)



Overview of Emergency Management

Mission: Help our community be prepared before, mitigate the impact of, respond to, and recover from all disasters

How we can help you:

- All Hazards (natural, human-caused, technological/infrastructure failures)
- Partnership Building and Information Sharing (Whole Community)
- Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- Emergency Planning
- Emergency Communications (Outdoor Warning Sirens and Emergency Alert Systems)
- Critical Infrastructure Protection + Continuity of Operations
- Training and Exercising

Ann Arbor

- Population Size: 120,000 (5th largest)
- University of Michigan and the U-M Health System (Level one trauma center for adults and children)
- Downtown
- Parks and Recreation
 - 162 Parks
 - The Huron River
- Critical Infrastructure
 - Water Treatment Plant
 - Wastewater Treatment Plant
 - 4 Dams
 - 32 Ann Arbor Public Schools
 - Police Department
 - 5 Fire Stations
 - 5 Public Libraries
 - 47 Precinct Polling Places, 6 Early Voting Sites, 8 ballot drop boxes



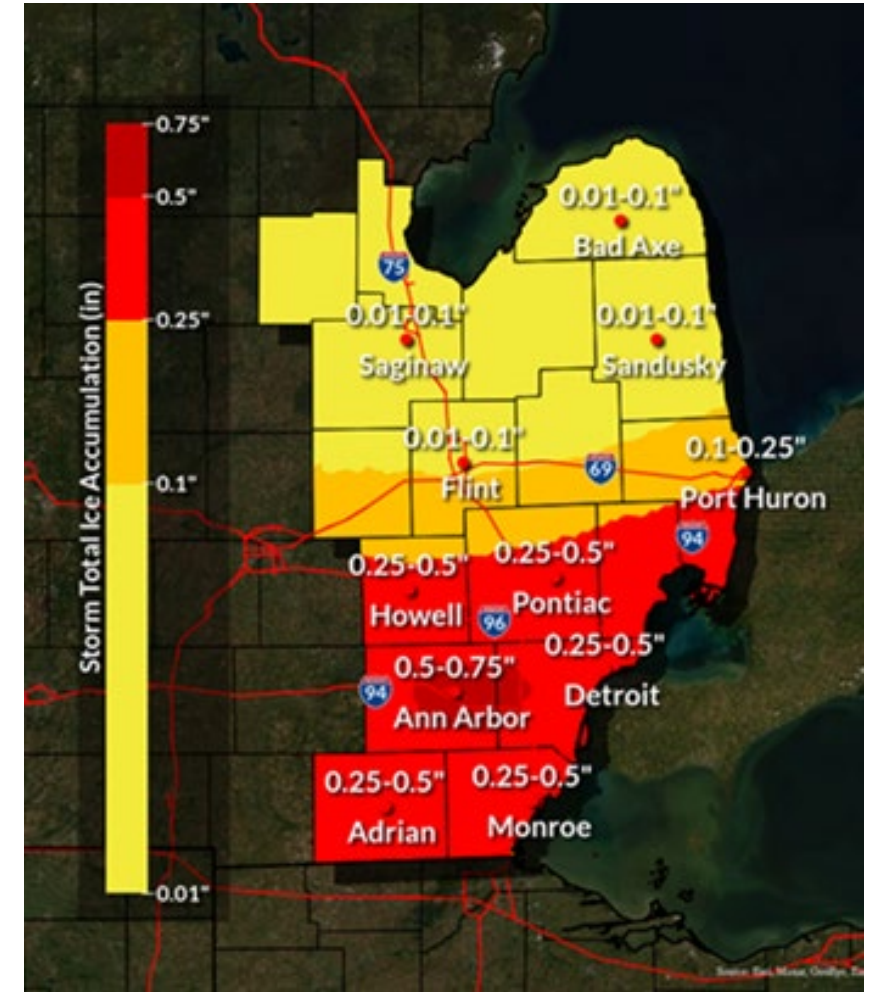
Winter storm knocks out power for more than 17K across Ann Arbor

Updated: Feb. 28, 2023, 9:05 a.m. | Published: Feb. 22, 2023, 10:14 p.m.



WWW NEWSRADIO 950 | NEWS | LOCAL

Major damage, historic calls for service reported in Ann Arbor as worst ice storm in a decade wallops city



What would we do if...

- A severe weather/widespread power outage event impacted election day?
 - I learned that it's not just election day we need to be preparing for (delivery of equipment, emptying of ballot boxes, etc.)
- We lost power to several of our polling locations?
- Our election staff were unable to safely commute to their polling location?
- We needed to communicate with voters of any operational changes?



December 2023 Tabletop Exercise

- Severe winter weather event impacting the February 27, 2024, Presidential Primary and causing widespread power outages
- City EOC team, City Clerk's Office, County Clerk's Office, University of Michigan, Michigan Secretary of State's Office, Michigan Bureau of Elections

"Can we reschedule the election?"

Lessons Learned

A disruption to elections would solicit a city-wide response

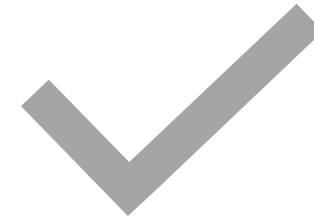


Communications

Promote various voting methods

Emergency messaging may conflict with the “get out and vote” message

Build relationships with your election and public safety partners in advance



Have a Plan

Elections Emergency Operations Plan

Polling Locations – secondary power and backup locations

Staff continuity plan

Know what resources you have – vehicles, generators, etc.

Election Emergency Operations Plan

- **Election Operations**
 - Voting timeline
 - Polling locations and hours of operation
 - Drop box locations
 - Staffing requirements
 - Delivery processes
- **Agency Directory**
 - Name, Title, Contact Information
 - Share EOP with those listed



Election Day Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)

2024

Elections Emergency Operations Plan

Intelligence/Early Warning

Emergency Operations Center

Severe Weather/Widespread Power Outage

Firearms at Polling Places

Public Alerting on Election Day

Bomb Threat

Civil Unrest

Michigan Election Law

Fire

Active Shooter

The work never ends!

- August 2024 Presidential Election Tabletop Exercise
- Updates to Election EOP
- CISA Security Assessment
- Suspicious Mail – Washtenaw County Hazardous Materials Team
- Regular Election Security Check In Meetings
- Election Safety Meeting
- Election Day Partial EOC Activation



Questions?

Thank You!

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