

**County Disaster Emergency Declaration
For Travel Restriction**

La Porte County, Indiana
January 19, 2024

Authority

Whereas, La Porte County, Indiana has been impacted by or is immediately threatened by the following emergency conditions:

WINTER STORM WARNING IN EFFECT UNTIL 7 AM EST /6 AM CST/ SATURDAY 1-20-24

* **WHAT...**Heavy lake effect snow expected. Total snow accumulations of 12 to 18 inches or more in La Porte County. Total snow will generally be in the 6 to 12 inch range elsewhere. Whiteout conditions with near zero visibility expected at times.

* **WHERE...**In Indiana, Northern La Porte, Southern La Porte and Western St. Joseph IN Counties. In Michigan, Southern Berrien County.

* **WHEN...**Until 7 AM EST /6 AM CST/ Saturday.

* **IMPACTS...**Travel could be very difficult to impossible. The hazardous conditions could impact the morning or evening commute.

* **ADDITIONAL DETAILS...**System snow early this morning was transitioning to bands of heavy lake effect snow. Intense snowfall rates of 2 to 3 inches per hour will be possible within dominant lake effect snow bands. Due to the nature of lake effect snow, conditions can vary significantly over very short distances, going from just flurries to whiteout conditions over the span of just a few miles. This can also result in highly variable snowfall totals over short distances.

If you must travel, keep an extra flashlight, food, blankets and water in your vehicle in case of an emergency

Now, therefore, we, the La Porte County Board of Commissioners, declare that a travel **WARNING!** emergency exists for (24) hours beginning Friday, January 19, 2024 at 10:00am central time until Saturday, January 20th at 10:00am in the county that we hereby invoke those portions of the Indiana Code which are applicable to the conditions and have caused the issuance of the declaration to be in full force and effect in the county for the exercise of all necessary emergency measures necessary for protection of lives and property and the prompt restoration of local government services.

The effect of this declaration is to:

- (1) Activate the response and recovery aspects of all applicable county disaster emergency plans.
- (2) Authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under the plans.
- (3) Declare a Travel Warning, during which travel shall be restricted to emergency personnel only. **(Further and more specific restrictions upon travel and parking may be included here.)** During a Travel Warning, all citizens are called upon and directed to refrain from all travel, to comply with necessary emergency measures, to cooperative with public officials and disaster services forces in executing emergency operations plans, and to obey and comply with the lawful directions of properly identified officers.

All public officers and employees of La Porte County are directed to limit their travel to that which is essential to the discharge of their public safety and essential service duties. Such employees are also hereby directed to exercise the utmost diligence in the discharge of duties required of them for the duration of the emergency and in execution of emergency laws, regulations, and directives, state and local.

In accordance with IC 10-14-3-29, (d), this Declaration does not prohibit individuals engaged in employment necessary to maintain a safe rail system, restore a public utility or provide any other emergency public service from traveling within the County during this disaster emergency.

All operating forces will direct their communications and requests for assistance and operations directly to La Porte County Emergency Operating Center.

Reference is hereby made to all appropriate laws, statutes, ordinances, and resolutions, and particularly to section 10-14-3-29 of the Indiana Code.

There are four travel advisory levels.

- (1) A travel advisory status of "Caution" means that a condition may develop that limit or hinders travel in isolated areas. Under "Caution", no travel restrictions have been placed in effect by county officials but citizens should be alert to changing conditions. The county's travel advisory status begins a starting level of "Caution" and will remain at that level unless and until it is changed by the EMA office.
- (2) A travel advisory status of "Advisory" means that routine travel or activities may be restricted in areas because of a hazardous situation. Citizens should use caution or avoid these areas. Schools and businesses may begin to implement their emergency action plans.
- (3) A travel advisory of "Watch" means that conditions are threatening to the safety of the public. Only essential travel is recommended (i.e., to and from work, emergency situation, etc.) Emergency action plans have been or should now be implemented by businesses, schools, government agencies and other organizations.
- (4) A travel advisory status of "Warning" means that travel may be restricted to emergency personnel only. During a Travel Warning, all citizens are called upon and directed to refrain from all travel, to comply with necessary emergency measures, to cooperative with public officials and disaster services forces in executing emergency operations plans, and to obey and comply with the lawful directions of properly identified officers. Further and more specific restrictions may be included.

This Declaration shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly in the office of the County Clerk.

In witness, whereof, we have hereunto set our hand this 19th day of January, 2024 AD.

La Porte County Board of Commissioners

DocuSigned by:
Connie Grammarosa
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DocuSigned by:
Richard Mrozinski
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Attest: _____

_____ Auditor

*IC 10-14-3-29 states that a local disaster emergency declaration may not be continued or renewed for more than seven (7) days except by or with the consent of the governing body of the political subdivision.