



**PROCLAMATION OF DISASTER
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
JULY 30, 2026**

WHEREAS, on July 27, 2026, Cook County, Illinois, experienced multiple rounds of severe thunderstorms, torrential rainfall, localized flash flooding, downed trees and power lines, structural damage, transportation disruptions and extensive utility outages across numerous Cook County municipalities, as well as areas of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service confirmed EF-1 tornadoes in Country Club Hills, Glenwood and Lynwood, that impacted portions of the Harvey, Markham, Homewood and Lansing municipalities, and EF-0 tornados in the Orland Park and Hazel Crest municipalities; and

WHEREAS this severe weather event caused extensive damage to public and private property within these Cook County municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the circumstances surrounding these storms have resulted in the occurrence or a threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of property; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of Cook County to be prepared to address any disasters and, therefore, it is necessary and appropriate to make additional Cook County resources available for the near future to ensure that the effects of the severe weather experienced on July 27 are mitigated and minimized; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security monitored the needs of communities during the storm, deployed personnel and equipment and assisted with recovery efforts, and continues to coordinate recovery efforts and provide technical assistance and support in conducting damage assessments at the municipal level; and

WHEREAS, Cook County is presently responding to this situation and it is deemed necessary to activate Cook County's emergency operations plan by proclaiming a local disaster exists within Cook County, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, a proclamation of a local disaster will assist the Cook County Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security's efforts to coordinate County and municipal resources for response and recovery activities, prevent and reduce further damage and hazards, protect the health and safety of persons, protect property and provide emergency assistance pursuant to Illinois law; and

WHEREAS, a local disaster proclamation will enhance the County's ability to access the resources, equipment and personnel needed to address ongoing and changing circumstances on the ground and the demands on County staff and partners; and

WHEREAS, a local disaster proclamation can facilitate a request for Federal financial disaster assistance if a complete and comprehensive assessment of damage indicates that effective recovery is beyond the capabilities of the State of Illinois and affected local governments.

NOW, THEREFORE, based on the foregoing and pursuant to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/11, and the Cook County Code of Ordinances, Section 26-36, I hereby proclaim that a local disaster exists within Cook County, Illinois.

This Proclamation shall be filed with the Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, and shall expire in seven days unless terminated sooner by me, in my capacity as principal executive officer of Cook County, Illinois, or unless extended by a vote of the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

Dated this 30th day of July 2026

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Toni Preckwinkle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Toni" and last name "Preckwinkle" clearly distinguishable.

Toni Preckwinkle, President
Cook County Board of Commissioners