



# Saint Louis County

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## NEWS RELEASE

**For immediate release:**

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### **Progress made, cleanup efforts continue one week after storm**

One week after an intense storm swept across several large swaths of St. Louis County, cleanup efforts continue, but progress clearly has been made to remove downed trees and help property owners begin the process of repairing the damage.

Employees from the County Assessor's Office have visited most, if not all, properties that received structural damage from the storm, documenting damage to roofs, decks, garages caused by high winds and falling trees. Of the several dozen properties inspected, five – three of which were airplane hangars – were considered damaged to the point of being unusable or uninhabitable. The Assessor's Office will continue to work with those property owners to determine if they are eligible for a disaster abatement on their property taxes.

Meanwhile, the St. Louis County Public Works Department continued to assist with storm clean up throughout last week, and on Monday provided the assistance of several employees and equipment, including a wood chipper and a large truck for hauling debris, to Fayal Township to help with efforts there.

"I'm really not surprised, but at the same time I'm impressed by the manner in which our communities have pulled together to help each other out," said Commissioner Keith Nelson, who lives in one of the hardest hit areas, Fayal Township. "The massive cleanup effort is well under way, but there is still more work to do. I'm seeing great teamwork amongst residents and governmental entities, and I'm proud of the way St. Louis County has partnered with local townships to help residents in the wake of this devastating storm."

Any property owners who sustained damage to a structure, such as a home, business, garage, shed or other building, who has not yet been in contact with the County Assessor's Office, can do so by calling (218) 749-7147 in Virginia, or (218) 726-2304 in Duluth.

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