



Emergency

Local Preparedness & Response



The Superior Watershed Partnership (SWP) has created an emergency response program involving year-round SWP staff, our Great Lakes Climate Corps (GLCC) crews, and community volunteers trained and equipped with the tools and transportation necessary to respond to natural disasters within 24 hours. When disaster strikes, the SWP is available to respond rapidly at the request of local leaders and emergency management professionals.



Local, Immediate Response

Keweenaw County received more than 1 in of rain per hour for more than 6 hours resulting in a 500 year flood event. Residents faced catastrophic private property and public infrastructure damage including flooded homes and businesses, crippled roadways, buried cars, washed out bridges and dams. Transportation, public services, and utilities were severely restricted leaving many seeking basic necessities to survive in addition to help restoring a sense of safety within their home and community. The very next day SWP deployed their GLCC crews to respond, almost a week before federal emergency response resources were made available. GLCC crews remained in the area for weeks providing critical services including damage inventory, volunteer coordination, resource distribution, and a variety of in-home projects (water damage demolition, moisture reduction, basement swamping, etc.). The GLCC coordinated with local emergency management officials to establish efficient data collection and communication channels to maximize the productivity of our crews. The mobility and local rapid response capabilities of GLCC crews prevented mold damage, identified community hazards, and provided residents basic needs including food, water, and personal hygiene products.



SWP is prepared to assist with every phase of emergency response including damage inventory, volunteer coordination, resource distribution, public services support, and other actions necessary to restore a sense of normalcy to residents of Upper Peninsula communities.

