

DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY AND TOWN COUNCIL CONSENT/RATIFICATION

Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana

Declaration No. 2026-5

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2026, the Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana, was impacted by a severe weather disaster involving high winds, hail, extremely heavy rainfall, localized flooding, downed trees and limbs, downed power lines, blocked streets, utility disruptions, damage to public and private property, and interruption of certain non-emergency municipal communications;

WHEREAS, these conditions created or threatened widespread and severe damage, injury, loss of property, disruption of essential services, and hazards to public health, safety, and welfare within the Town of Griffith;

WHEREAS, the Town of Griffith has deployed and continues to utilize police, fire, public works, emergency services, and other available municipal resources, in coordination with county, state, utility, and other public safety partners, to protect life and property, clear roadways, respond to calls for service, restore local government operations, and support recovery efforts;

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 10-14-3-29 authorizes the principal executive officer of a political subdivision to declare a local disaster emergency and provides that such declaration activates applicable response and recovery aspects of local or interjurisdictional disaster emergency plans and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance under those plans;

WHEREAS, under Indiana Code 36-5-2-2, the President of the Town Council is the town executive, and the Town Council is the legislative body of the Town of Griffith;

WHEREAS, the Griffith Town Council finds that the conditions resulting from the June 24, 2026 severe weather disaster require the exercise of all lawful emergency authority necessary to protect the lives and property of the residents, businesses, visitors, and public employees of the Town and to restore local government operations with a minimum of interruption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED AND RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, AND BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL ACTING AS TOWN EXECUTIVE, AS FOLLOWS:

1. A local disaster emergency exists in the Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana, as a result of the severe weather disaster that occurred on June 24, 2026 and the continuing response and recovery conditions arising from that event.
2. The President of the Griffith Town Council, acting as the Town Executive and principal executive officer of the Town, hereby invokes and declares those portions of Indiana Code, applicable local ordinances, emergency operations plans, mutual aid agreements, interlocal agreements, policies, and other lawful authorities applicable to these conditions to be in full force and effect for the exercise of all necessary emergency authority for the protection of lives and property and for the restoration of local government operations with a minimum of interruption.
3. The Griffith Town Council hereby approves, ratifies, and consents to this Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency and authorizes the Town Council President, Clerk-Treasurer, Chief of Police, Fire Chief, Public Works officials, and all other appropriate Town officials and employees to take all lawful and necessary actions to respond to, recover from, document, and seek reimbursement or assistance for the emergency and related damages.
4. All public offices, departments, officers, employees, and agents of the Town of Griffith are directed to exercise the utmost diligence in the discharge of duties required of them for the duration of this emergency and in the execution of all applicable emergency laws, regulations, plans, policies, and directives, whether state or local.

5. All residents, businesses, and members of the public are called upon and directed to comply with necessary emergency measures, cooperate with public officials and disaster services forces in executing emergency operations plans, avoid unnecessary travel, avoid flooded streets and areas with downed power lines or other hazards, and obey the lawful directions of properly identified officers and officials.
6. All operating forces shall coordinate communications, requests for assistance, damage reporting, resource needs, and emergency operations through the appropriate Town of Griffith incident command structure and, when applicable, the Lake County Emergency Management Agency, Lake County Emergency Operations Center, Indiana Department of Homeland Security, and other appropriate county, state, federal, utility, and mutual aid partners.
7. This Declaration shall not prohibit travel or access by emergency management workers, law enforcement, fire, emergency medical, public works, utility restoration personnel, railroad system personnel, certified first response broadcasters, certified first response communications service providers, or any other persons whose travel is protected or necessary under Indiana Code 10-14-3-29 or other applicable law.
8. This Declaration shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly in the office of the Clerk-Treasurer of the Town of Griffith.
9. This Declaration was approved by the Griffith Town Council at a regular meeting conducted in accordance with Indiana's Open Door Law, or at an emergency meeting conducted in accordance with Indiana Code 5-14-1.5-5(d), on the date set forth below.
10. This Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency shall remain in effect for 7 days, unless terminated earlier, and may be continued or renewed only as provided by Indiana Code 10-14-3-29 and other applicable law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have set their hands this 1st day of July, 2026.

TOWN OF GRIFFITH, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA



President, Griffith Town Council
Town Executive

Council Member

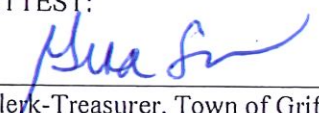


Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

ATTEST:



Clerk-Treasurer, Town of Griffith