

Washington, DC—Today, Congressman Olver released the following statement regarding last night's severe thunderstorms and tornadoes in Western and Central Massachusetts:

Last night, severe thunderstorms affected Western and Central Massachusetts, with three tornadoes having been confirmed by the National Weather Service, including multiple touchdowns in Westfield and West Springfield. Heavy rain, strong winds, large hail, and flash flooding damaged homes and cars as well as public buildings, roads, and schools. Many trees are down and electricity is still out in many areas of the state.

At 7:10 PM last night, Governor Patrick declared a State of Emergency and deployed over 400 National Guard Personnel to Western and Central Massachusetts to assist with the clean-up, coordinated by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). Rapid assessment teams are currently out in the affected communities, surveying damage and reporting to the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC).

My thoughts are with all of those affected by these devastating storms and tornadoes. My office is continuing to work with local, state, and federal officials to provide assistance.

For further information on the State of Emergency, please contact MEMA at (508) 820-2000.

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