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## Team Elmer's Busy Fixing Homes Damaged by Shoreline Erosion

October 23, 2019 by [Chloe Kiple](https://www.9and10news.com/bios/chloe-kiple/) (<https://www.9and10news.com/bios/chloe-kiple/>)



Local construction companies say their phones are ringing off the hook with homeowners desperate to keep their homes from falling into Lake Michigan.



<https://images.9and10news.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/SHORELINE-PRESERVATION-web-image-.jpg> Storms, and powerful shoreline erosion have toppled hundreds of trees, washed away long stretches of beach, and crumbled nearby infrastructure, in part because of record water levels in the Great Lakes.

Team Elmer's of Traverse City says they're consulting more than 20 homeowners who are trying to save their properties before it's too late.

"People are very...panicking right now. I don't blame them," said Team Elmer's project manager Alan MacDonald. "I've been doing this for many years, and this is probably the worst I've seen on the shorelines."

These emergencies add more to Team Elmer's already busy workload. MacDonald said his team is trying to balance the home repairs with their existing projects.

"We're like any company. We only have so many people to do the work," said MacDonald.

The construction company can assess, consult and offer quotes for homeowners on the lake, but no work can start until they get the proper permits.

Homeowners need authorization to do construction because they're working so close to the shoreline. He says they need permits from the department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy as well as the Army Corps of Engineers.

The issue is that the permitting process can often take months. He says concerned homeowners should apply for permits right away.

"Anything below the high water level needs a permit," said MacDonald. "Get in line for the permits, that's #1."

Besides that, his other advice is simpler:

“Just pray for the water to start going down,” said MacDonald.

To apply for EGLE/Army Corps permits, visit:

[https://www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135-3313\\_71520\\_24403--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135-3313_71520_24403--,00.html)

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