

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
PO Box 116, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
Phone: 573/526-9100 Fax: 573/634-7966
E-mail: mosema@mail.mo.gov



Situation Report Southwest MO Storms Event May 13, 2008, 10 a.m.

SUMMARY

Severe storms with heavy rain and high winds, along with several reported tornadoes, swept through southwest Missouri Saturday evening – Sunday Morning. These severe storms are part of a large cluster of fast-moving storms, which have also affected states such as Oklahoma, Arkansas and Tennessee. At least **16** people have been killed in southwest Missouri due to tornadoes.

Governor Blunt is allowing State resources to assist in the affected areas under the previously-issued Executive Order 08-17. He has been in contact with state agencies regarding the effects of the tornadoes and severe storms in southwest Missouri.

Utilities:

AmerenUE reports that power has been restored within their service area. Empire Electric indicates that they have 470 meters out of service in Newton County. Aquila is not reporting any outages at this time. New-Mac Electric Coop reports about 2,500 meters without power as of last night. The transmission line was repaired last night around 9:30 p.m., so additional reconnects should go quickly today (and possibly tomorrow).

County Reports:

Barry County – Officials report one person killed. It's believed about 150-175 buildings have been affected with about a dozen destroyed. They are checking for additional damages.

Jasper County – One person reported killed near Carthage. NWS has confirmed a second tornado (EF-1) east of Carthage in Jasper County. Also reports of downed trees and minor structural damage. There was no report from Jasper County for Tuesday.

Newton County – All searches have been completed. **14** confirmed fatalities. The 14th casualty died Monday from injuries received during the tornado. He was a firefighter and storm spotter. He died performing his duties as a storm spotter – in the line of Duty. Over 200 folks were treated for injuries. All shelters are closed and they have turned several into feeding centers. Governor Blunt and U.S. Representative Roy Blunt visited the area yesterday.

State Agencies

The State Emergency Management Agency – SEMA has activated the State Emergency Operations Center to Level One. **Joint FEMA/SEMA Damage Assessments will continue through today and should be completed by Wednesday, May 14th.**

Missouri Information Analysis Center – MIAC continues to collect and disseminate information related to the storms and their effects.

Missouri National Guard – MONG will be supporting Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff's visit to Northeast Oklahoma and Southwest Missouri.

Missouri State Highway Patrol – Have returned to normal operations.

Missouri State Water Patrol – Have returned to normal operations.

Department of Agriculture – Have returned to normal operations

Department of Health & Senior Services – Have returned to normal operations.

Department of Natural Resources – Water and well testing continues in the affected areas.

Department of Mental Health – DMH ready to assist volunteer organizations and other state agencies with issues involving shelters for the public. DMH has manned up there counseling phones. Newton/Jasper County persons needing services should call 800/247-0661 and Barry County residents should call 800/801-4405.

Division of Fire Safety – Have returned to normal operations.

Department of Social Services – Have returned to normal operations.

Department of Transportation – Have returned to normal operations. They will be repairing the low-water crossing that was damaged in Barry County sometime next week.

Non Government Organizations/Volunteer Organizations:

American Red Cross (ARC) - ARC reports that they have two feeding centers in continuous operations. They are providing clean up kits and water for residents in the affected area.

Americorps has 30 members in the area – split between Neosho and Newtonia. Call-in numbers set up for residents needing help with debris clean up. The numbers are (417) 451-8248 or 8249 and will be staffed from 9 AM – 4 PM daily.

Convoy of Hope – One truck delivered supplies to Newton County last night and another is expected to arrive early this afternoon.

Humane Society of Missouri – HUSM has set up a portable (mobile) shelter just north of Neosho and has 20 pets in the shelter. They are providing pet food to those that request it.

Salvation Army (SA) - Salvation Army reports sheltering operations has ceased, but feeding operations continue. Reported that have fed over 2,100 meals since Sunday.

United Way – 211 – Not many calls at this time and they are continuing to monitor the situation.

Weather:

The National Weather Service Reports that with the approaching cold front will be a strong likelihood of showers, thunderstorms and potential for severe weather. These storms will start in the western portion of the State this afternoon and will progress from west to east. The rain (and storms) are expected to clear out by Wednesday morning. Another round of storms is expected on Thursday. Highs should be in the 60s and 70s through Saturday.

Point of Contact:

The State Emergency Management Agency has returned the State EOC to Level One operations. It will be open from 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM until further notice and can be contacted at 573-526-9100. Any requests for assistance after hours should be directed to the SEMA Duty Officer at 573-751-2748.

Please Note: This is the last Situation Report for this event. SEMA reserves the right to issue further updates should conditions warrant it.