

# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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### **Situation Report Winter Storm Event February 1, 2009 5:00 P.M.**

**UPDATED INFORMATION IN BOLD**

#### **SUMMARY**

A Canadian cold front pushed into Missouri Monday, mixing with Gulf moisture and creating hazardous weather conditions. There have been **six** fatalities reported in weather-related accidents throughout the state. Officials report power is out on about **54,000** meters across south and southeast Missouri. National Weather Service indicated some areas in south Missouri received from ½ to 1” of freezing rain. Other areas had up to 4” of sleet or up to 7” of snow. Governor Nixon directed SEMA to activate the State Emergency Operations Center and signed an Executive Order activating the Missouri National Guard for State Emergency Duty.

Governor Nixon requested an expedited Declaration of this disaster from the President. On Friday, the President approved Gov. Nixon’s request for emergency assistance. The Missouri Attorney General’s office issued a news release about potential disaster-related fraud and price gouging. The news release contains the number for the Consumer Protection Hotline, which is 800-392-8222. Governor Nixon signed Executive Order 09-07, authorizing DNR’s Director to waive certain restrictions related to debris disposal, open burning and wastewater, on January 30, 2009 and effective until March 31, 2009.

SEMA has activated the State EOC to a level two activation. Appropriate State agencies have reported to the State EOC and are responding to requests from County and City officials.

#### **Power outages - Utilities:**

**Ameren UE** – About **16,000** meters are without power, primarily in southeast Missouri. Some 4,000 workers are involved in storm restoration efforts. An estimated 1,600 poles are down due to the storm.

**Missouri Electric Cooperatives** – Several cooperatives are reporting **23,000** meters without power. Estimates are that at least 5,000 utility poles are down, in addition to transmission lines.

**Missouri Public Utilities Alliance** - An estimated **15,000** meters remain without power. **Concentrating on City of Malden and City of Thayer. West Plains has released crews to help with other utilities.**

#### **Counties/Cities Reports:**

**Butler County** – **95% with power, they still have about 700 meter out in the City of Poplar Bluff and 1,300 out in the County. No further assistance requested at this time. All generators are in place and functioning properly.**

**Carter County** – Officials estimate 1000 rural residents are without power. Many county roads remain impassable. Power is up in Ellsinore. Health and wellness checks are continuing. Food and water was delivered to people sheltered in place around the county. Will be picking up more water to distribute to residents. Medical shut-ins and elderly requesting help with getting oxygen tanks restocked – Department of Health and Human Services will assist with this issue.

**Dunklin County** – All cities have water supply systems up and running. Chain saw crews were working to open up roads. Cities of Malden and Campbell are up to 50% power. Clarkton is putting their power poles back up, level of power restoration unknown at this time.

**Howell County** – Working with ARC on water issues for those residents on well water. MONG is assisting with road clearance. Local firefighters were doing wellness checks. City of West Plains has power restored, but significant outages remain in the County. Shelter will be closing at noon (Sunday). **Howell County officials report 4,000 –5,000 residents still without power. Most roads are open, at least single lane. They are widening them to allow full traffic. They have plenty of water.**

**Mississippi County** – MONG is doing wellness checks. Charleston water supply is good and they are looking into assisting the other local water districts. Partial power in East Prairie and most of the power is back on in Charleston. Rural power systems are still out. The county 911 systems went out, but is back up. **East Prairie is up to 95% power on. Shelters are winding down.**

**New Madrid County** – Incident Support Team and MONG liaison are in place. MONG is conducting wellness checks. City of Portageville reports power is coming back up slowly. All generators request have been filled. Power outside of the City of New Madrid still remains nearly 100% out. **Continued wellness checks and they are distributing meals and water.**

**Oregon County** –City of Thayer with **90%** power outage. Oregon County is under a boil-water order. Texas County Health Department assisting with wellness checks. ARC personnel on-site to assist with feeding operations. Water and MRE distribution efforts are underway. Shelter population has dropped considerably since Saturday. Water is being pumped into the system. Seven Conservation crews are working debris clearance in Oregon County.

**Ozark County** – Still some residents without power. An estimated 75% of county roads are now open. An Incident Support Team deployed to the county. **Wellness checks being conducted and as they are doing the checks they are delivering MRE's and water. Currently closing all shelters. Americorp delivered 500 MRE's which are expected to last 2-3 days.**

**Pemiscot County** - County is under Boil Water Order. Standing up ARC mass feeding operations. City of Caruthersville getting water out to residents, clearing debris to side of roadways, and setting up feeding center. Caruthersville is getting power back up. City of Caruthersville is looking to submit water samples in the next 24 hours. **Received a load of water Sunday.**

**Ripley County** – MONG doing health and wellness checks, as well as clearing county roads of debris. About half of county roads are passable. Water system is back up. About **60%** of power has been restored. A lot of requests for food and water and they are getting them out to the communities. **5,000 MRE's have arrived. More water has arrived. Shelter operations are winding down.**

**Scott County** – An estimated 65% of county is without power. City of Sikeston reports **65%** of residential power is out. Several residents have been treated for carbon monoxide exposure and injuries while clearing debris. Some industrial and agricultural buildings have shown collapsed in an aerial survey. Water will be delivered to people out in the county. Local officials have concerns about price gouging of kerosene and tree

removal fees. **City of Sikeston has finished their health and wellness checks. Nurses are enroute to Missouri Delta Hospital.**

**Stoddard County** – About **35%** of county is without power. Received water and MREs and continue to need generators. Conservation chainsaw crew and bulldozer assisted in debris clearance. **They are still working wellness checks. Bernie, Essex and Gray Ridge are still without power. Need one generator to act as a back-up for one of the water districts. Bell City has their electricity back up.**

#### State Agencies:

**ESF-1 Transportation** - Missouri Department of Transportation reports **10** road closures in southeast Missouri, either due to utility damage or debris on the road. Commercial Motor Vehicle waivers have been extended to February 5<sup>th</sup>.

**ESF-2 Communications** – MSHP sent eight technicians to Poplar Bluff to assist with distribution of generators. Officers monitoring MTAC channel for radio traffic from local EOCs/personnel in order to assist in relay of information to local authority or state EOC if telephone or other communication means are unreliable or unavailable. Working phone problems with the carriers, especially landlines. Cellular towers are being brought back up throughout the area. Checking batteries on remote cellular tower sites is becoming a high priority as roads are cleared. Scattered phone outages reported throughout Southeast Missouri.

**ESF-3 Public Works** – DNR/Water is working to assist local jurisdictions with their water utility system issues. Reminded to issue boiling water orders. They are issuing information on disinfecting water. They also transported six trailers of cots to Scott, Stoddard and New Madrid Counties. **Water samples should be sent to Butler County Health Department will receive the water samples and they will be couriered to Jefferson City Health Lab for testing.** Conservation has chainsaw crews moving debris from roads. They currently have crews working in Dunklin, Oregon, Ripley, and Stoddard counties.

**ESF-4/9 Fire/Search and Rescue** - Missouri State Fire Marshal indicates 14 firefighters were sent to affected areas under mutual aid in Kennett. Also providing assistance with Incident Support Teams in New Madrid and Ozark Counties. **Ozark County IST Team is demobilizing this afternoon (Sunday).**

**ESF-5 Emergency Management** - SEMA is at level two activation and the State EOC is on a 24-hour staffing pattern. SEMA officials encourage local jurisdictions to document their storm-related expenses for potential reimbursement, if a Federal Disaster Declaration **is received for Public Assistance.**

**ESF-6 Human Services** - Department of Social Services and partners -- American Red Cross, Salvation Army, AmeriCorps, United Way 211, Humane Society and others -- are continuing to serve shelters in several communities in the affected area. Red Cross is setting up hot meal distribution points; Southern Baptists are providing fixed feeding sites. Salvation Army, Red Cross and others continue to coordinate requests for food and water. 211 are connecting volunteers with shelters in need of help. . DSS employees are working in shelters, as well as assuring state services are continuing to families, both impacted and unaffected. Water and food have arrived in suitable quantities at the distribution centers. **Shelter figures are winding down (42 shelters with 1,462 clients).**

**ESF-7 Logistics** – SEMA Logistics is providing generator support – **98 generators have been installed and 170 have been requested.** Department of Corrections' trucks transported MRE's and water to Poplar Bluff to be distributed throughout southeast Missouri. Please contact logistics if you no longer need the generator, they can and will be redistributed to someplace that needs it.

**ESF- 8 Public Health** – Department of Health and Senior Services is monitoring hospitals, long-term care facilities, local public health agencies, and senior and disabled clients. DHSS Environmental Health Response team was mobilized to assist with potential food-related issues and sent to Poplar Bluff. DHSS issued four news releases related to this event and continues to assist with staffing needs at hospital in Sikeston. Sent special-needs cache to Stoddard County Health Department. Dept. of Mental Health assisting local healthcare providers as needed. Disaster-related fact sheets are on DMH website. **DMAT personnel has arrived at Missouri Delta Hospital. Food inspection teams are surveying the groceries in Southeast area.**

**ESF-10 Hazardous Materials** – DNR–EER is monitoring the situation and will respond if needed. Looking into debris management issues.

**ESF-11 Agriculture** – Dept. of Agriculture is monitoring the situation and handling some poultry issues that have arisen.

**ESF-12 Energy** – DNR Energy working to make sure fuel will be available for distribution in the affected area. PSC reminds affected people that weather heads are the customer’s responsibility and not the utilities.

**ESF-13 Public Safety** – Missouri State Highway Patrol has troopers assisting local jurisdictions as requested, working accidents and keeping highways cleared of accidents. **MSHP providing 36 officers includes Missouri State Water Patrol (10) officers and five Deputies from Camden County to assist Troop E’s regularly assigned troopers.** Criminal problems are reportedly at a minimum. Officers assisting with curfew-enforcement in some affected areas. Water Patrol is helping to haul critical supplies, conduct wellness checks, and to assist with security. Water Patrol is hauling critical supplies from the Poplar Bluff distribution center to affected areas in the region.

**ESF-14 Long Term Recovery** – No report as this time.

**ESF-15 Public Affairs** - Fielding calls from National networks and issuing press releases.

**ESF-16 Missouri National Guard** – Liaison officers are being dispatched and more soldiers are being called up and ready for assist local jurisdictions. MONG has **365** citizen-soldiers assisting the local jurisdictions in many different locations throughout southeast Missouri. Troops are assisting with wellness checks and debris clearance.

**ESF – 17 Animal Welfare** – A Humane Society of Missouri survey team is in southeast Missouri to assist local jurisdictions. **160** animals rescued to date. Over 9,000 pounds of pet food was delivered to the distribution site and animal shelters. They have set up temporary kennels at Poplar Bluff, New Madrid and Portageville. They have emptied the shelters at Sikeston, Caruthersville and Kennett to make room for further ‘drop-offs’.

**Volunteer Agencies:**

**United Way – 211** – Up and running and taking calls. They have received about **365** calls to date.

**American Red Cross** – Assisting with Shelter requests. Need specifics for opening shelter...cots, meals and water numbers would assist in getting them up and running. Assisting with setting up feeding operations in several locations.

**AmeriCorps Volunteers** – Several Teams providing support for shelters. Approximately **47** AmeriCorps Volunteers are working this disaster throughout the area.

**Civil Air Patrol** -- Ground, air, and communication assets remain on alert to assist if requested. Ground teams are assisting with health and wellness checks in affected area.

**Convoy of Hope** – Sent a truck to Poplar Bluff distribution site Wednesday with water and MREs.

**Salvation Army** – Assisting in feeding operations at various sites, as needed. Working with American Red Cross on the feeding situation.

**County Shelter Summary (As of 2/1/09 @ 1500 hrs.)**

County	# of Shelters	Current Population
Butler	2	215
Cape Girardeau	2	13
Dunklin	3	326
Howell	1	10
Mississippi	6	69
New Madrid	12	116
Oregon	2	14
Ozark	1	15
Pemiscot	4	35
Ripley	2	24
Scott	2	540
Stoddard	5	85
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1462</b>

**Weather:**

National Weather Service (St. Louis) reports sunny for the rest of the day with a high around 50. Clouds will move in later tonight, with a slight chance for a flurry. Temperature over Sunday night should be in the teens and twenties. A cooling trend for the first part of the week, but no substantial chance of precipitation is in the forecast.

**Point of Contact:**

The State Emergency Management Agency can be contacted at 573-526-9100. This number will be staffed until further notice on a 24-hour basis.