

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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Situation Report Winter Storm Event February 10, 2009 11:00 am

UPDATED INFORMATION IN BOLD

SUMMARY

A Canadian cold front pushed into Missouri on January 26th, mixing with Gulf moisture and creating hazardous weather conditions. There have been eight fatalities associated with the storm. Six people were killed in traffic accidents that occurred on January 26th. Two more people died in New Madrid County from carbon monoxide poisoning while operating a generator in their garage. Officials report power is out for about **8,500** customers across southeast Missouri. Dept of Social Services report there are **4** shelters open with **0** clients.

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. On January 30th, the President approved Gov. Nixon's request for emergency assistance. On February 6th, Governor Nixon sent a letter to the President asking for disaster assistance in 22 impacted counties. The request is being review by FEMA. 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.

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.

Power outages - Utilities:

Missouri Electric Cooperatives –Cooperatives are reporting about 7,000 customers without power with 2300 plus crews working in Southeast Missouri. They are working to have a majority of outages repaired by this weekend. However, some outages will continue into next week.

Missouri Public Utilities Alliance - Approximately 500 customers remain without power in Kennett.

Counties/Cities Reports:

Cape Girardeau County – Officials report collapse of several agricultural structures due to heavy ice and snow accumulations.

Dunklin County – There are still many power outages in the southern half of the County. Precautionary Boil Water Orders in effect for Arbyrd and Cardwell.

Mississippi County – Power is being restored to other smaller communities but still out in rural areas. The EOC is returning to normal operations.

New Madrid County – Officials report a 59-year-old woman and a 15-year-old girl died from carbon monoxide poisoning from running a generator in the garage at their house. The EOC has returned to normal operations. Some schools re-opened on Monday.

Pemiscot County - Some of the schools are back in session. Officials reported widespread outages continue in rural parts of the county.

Ripley County – They are continuing to delivering water and MREs to the more remote sections of the County.

Scott County – Working with DHSS to switch out medical staff with local hospital. All schools are back in session. Most phone service is restored. Cell service is operational.

Stoddard County –Power is about 85% in county. Dexter school is open but others in the county have not yet re-opened. The warming center located in Harvest Assemblies of God Church in Essex. All schools are open except Bell City, which may open on Tuesday. The EOC is open for normal operations.

State Agencies:

ESF-1 Transportation - Missouri Department of Transportation reports **6 roads are closed due to flooding from Monday's storm system, utility damage or debris on the road. MoDOT has extended an Emergency Declaration 09-01 for carriers operating in emergency relief efforts in our state.** Recovery phase of operations has begun and more personnel have been moved into the area for debris removal and cleanup.

ESF-2 Communications – MSHP and PSC are working phone problems with the carriers, especially landlines. All wireless service has been restored. The MSHP Mobile Command Post vehicle has arrived in Poplar Bluff and is operational.

ESF-3 Public Works – DNR/Water is working to assist local jurisdictions with their water utility system issues. They are issuing information on disinfecting water and sending water flushing/boiling guidance to southeast Missouri schools. DNR is monitoring 3 Boil Water Orders which remain in effect in the area.

ESF-4/9 Fire/Search and Rescue - Missouri State Fire Marshal reports firefighters remain in Kennett under State Mutual Aid system.

ESF-5 Emergency Management - SEMA is at level-two activation and will operate the State EOC from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. daily until further notice.

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 several communities in the affected area. Shelter population is dwindling (**0** people stayed in **4** overnight shelters). Multi-Agency Resource Centers will open on Tuesday in Kennett, Sikeston, and Poplar Bluff.

ESF-7 Logistics –As generators are being freed up, they are being reassigned or returned. MO Office of Administration and Dept. of Corrections continues to have personnel and equipment delivering generators.

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. Five nursing homes are on generators. DHSS is coordinating additional staff for Missouri Delta Hospital in Sikeston. Dept. of Mental Health assisting local healthcare providers as needed. Disaster-related fact sheets are on DMH website.

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. Agriculture Department is checking building collapses in southeast Missouri and animal carcass removal.

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 generally 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. Curfews and enforcement are still in effect in some areas. Missouri State Water Patrolmen are assisting local jurisdictions in which they live.

ESF-14 Long Term Recovery – DNR/Parks mobilized crews into New Madrid and Mississippi Counties to begin restoration/recovery efforts at one historical site and one state park. Both locations were damaged in the storm and are without power.

ESF-15 Public Affairs – A two-page Citizen Disaster Information Flyer has been prepared and is now posted on the SEMA homepage.

ESF-16 Missouri National Guard – MONG has its citizen-soldiers assisting with the disaster response effort.

ESF-17 Animal Welfare – A Humane Society of Missouri survey team is in southeast Missouri to assist local jurisdictions. 196 animals rescued to date. Most of the animals have been returned to their owners. A few others are still being cared for until power has been restored to homes of their owners.

Volunteer Agencies:

United Way – 211 – Requests are coming in for replacement food funding and cleanup assistance, electrical weather head, food, water, and home damage should call United Way 211. They have received over **870** plus calls to date.

American Red Cross – Assisting where requested at this time.

AmeriCorps Volunteers – **Several Teams are providing support for shelters, multi-agency resource centers, volunteer co-ordination, call-center support and debris removal.** Approximately **37 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 completed health and wellness checks in Malden. Aerial assessment photos were taken of Sikeston, Kennett and Malden.

Convoy of Hope – Delivered a mixed truck of water and food to Senath.

Salvation Army – The Salvation Army is assisting with on-going requests, and providing support to the Multi-Agency Resource Centers that are scheduled to open next week.

Weather:

From the National Weather Service: There is a Slight Risk of severe thunderstorms for most of the state today and tonight. A Flash Flood Watch is in effect from tonight through Wednesday morning for a large part of southern and southeastern Missouri. A High Wind Watch is in effect for southeast Missouri from late tonight through Wednesday night. Showers and thunderstorms are possible for most of the State from this evening through tomorrow. Hi today ranging from the lower 60s north to the lower 70s south. Winds are projected at 15-25 mph for much of the State. Tonight, thunderstorms. Some could be severe with large hail and damaging winds. Wednesday it will be partly sunny with highs in the lower 40s north to lower - mid 60s south. Chance of thunderstorms south. Winds near 35 mph and will gust to near 50 mph in the southeastern part of the State.

Point of Contact:

The State Emergency Management Agency can be contacted at 573-526-9100 from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. daily. Emergency calls after hours can be made to the Duty Officer at 573-751-2748.