

# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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### **Situation Report Winter Storm Event February 3, 2009 5:00 PM**

**UPDATED INFORMATION IN BOLD**

#### **SUMMARY**

A Canadian cold front pushed into Missouri on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 **26,300** meters across south and southeast Missouri. Dept of Social Services report **25** shelters with **636** clients. 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. High winds on Tuesday caused outages that required additional repairs. 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 **3,600** meters are without power, primarily in southeast Missouri. Some 4,000 workers are involved in storm restoration efforts.

**Missouri Electric Cooperatives** – Several cooperatives are reporting **16,500** meters without power. An estimated 5,000 utility poles have been downed, in addition to transmission lines. **White River Valley Electric reports power is now 100% up in southwest Missouri.**

**Missouri Public Utilities Alliance** - An estimated **6,200** meters remain without power.

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

**Carter County** – Health and wellness checks were continuing. Still reports of some residents without power. No critical needs at this time.

**Dunklin County** – All cities have water supply systems up and running. City of Malden has 70% electrical power. City of Campbell is up to 50% power. City of Clarkton is up to 75% power. Shelter operations are winding down and feeding operations are on-going. No critical needs at this time.

**Howell County** – 90% power has been restored. Most of the remaining people out of power are in the southern portion of the county. Most roads are open, at least single lane.

**Mississippi County** – Cities of Charleston, East Prairie and Wyatt are at 100% power. **Power is being restored to other smaller communities but still out in rural areas.** Schools are going to try to re-open Wednesday.

**New Madrid County** – Incident Support Team is still in place. Schools are still out, primary concern is for the transportation of the students as they still have low wires hanging and debris in the roadways. **City of Portageville has about 75-80% power up at this time.**

**Oregon County** – Conservation crews have completed debris clearance in rural part of county. City of Thayer has about 80-85% power restored. Schools are planning to re-open on Wednesday.

**Ozark County** – Still some residents without power. **All roads are passable, but crews are still clearing debris along them. Wellness checks have been completed.** They are delivering MRE's and water. All shelters are closed.

**Pemiscot County** - Power is coming back up and there are no critical needs at this time. School officials were to meet Tuesday to determine when they can restart schools. City of Caruthersville has 95% of its power is back on. **All Boil Water Orders in the county have been lifted.**

**Ripley County** –Water system is back up. About **60%** of power has been restored. City of Doniphan is at 80% and City of Naylor is about 100% power on. MONG is conducting health and wellness checks, delivering water, and MREs to the more remote sections of the County. No critical needs at this time.

**Scott County** – An estimated **60%** of customers in the county have had power restored. City of Sikeston reports 60% of power is back on. **A warming center is being opened in Hayward City.** Hospital staff need is on going; they have a large population of patients. Public schools are planning to restart on **Wednesday or Thursday** and the parochial Schools will restart on Friday. No critical needs at this time.

**Stoddard County** – All water districts are back up on electrical grid power or generator power. Schools will try to open on Wednesday. 100% of their wellness checks were completed. 70% power has been restored. No critical needs at this time.

#### **State Agencies:**

**ESF-1 Transportation** - Missouri Department of Transportation reports **20** road closures in southeast Missouri, either due to utility damage or debris on the road. **MoDOT has now extended Commercial Motor Vehicle waivers until February 10<sup>th</sup>.** Working on getting minor roads open and assisting with debris clearance.

**ESF-2 Communications** – MSHP and PSC are working phone problems with the carriers, especially landlines. Scattered phone outages reported throughout Southeast Missouri. All wireless service has been restored.

**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 that are resuming classes this week. Monitoring several Boil Water Orders which remain in effect in the area.** Conservation has one chainsaw crew clearing debris from blocked roads.

**ESF-4/9 Fire/Search and Rescue** - Missouri State Fire Marshal indicates 14 firefighters were sent to affected areas under mutual aid in Kennett. **New Madrid County IST will be demobilized Wednesday.**

**ESF-5 Emergency Management - SEMA is at level two activation and will operate the State EOC from 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. daily until further notice.** 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 several communities in the affected area. Shelter figures are winding down (**25 shelters with 636 clients**). Salvation Army, Red Cross and others continue to coordinate requests for food and water. People with ongoing problems – electrical weather head, food, water, and home damage should call United Way 211. As shelters close, make sure that if the cots were borrowed, that they get back to the loaner. **Working with Department of Elementary and Secondary Education regarding assistance to schools that have been closed due to this incident.**

**ESF-7 Logistics** – All outstanding requests to SEMA for generators are being addressed. As generators are being freed up, they are being reassigned or returned. MO Office of Administration reports a number of state offices and facilities are closed in the affected area. For state office building closures, call (888) 390-9927. Dept. of Corrections continues to have personnel and equipment delivering generators. In addition, the Community Supervision Center in Kennett is housing linemen in the area.

**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. Dept. of Mental Health assisting local healthcare providers as needed. Disaster-related fact sheets are on DMH website. DMAT personnel are assisting at Missouri Delta Hospital in Sikeston. **Deployment for DMAT nursing staff has been extended another 72 hours. Lab is open in Poplar Bluff and processing water samples.**

**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 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. Officers assisting with curfew-enforcement in some affected areas. Five Missouri State Water Patrolmen are assisting local jurisdictions in which they live. Two Camden County Deputy Sheriff’s are assisting in Mississippi County and two MSHP Communications Officers are at Poplar Bluff supporting the Sikeston Mobile EOC.

**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** – Working on a flyer for public safety tips.

**ESF-16 Missouri National Guard** – MONG has 357 citizen-soldiers assisting with the disaster response effort. 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. 196 animals rescued to date. 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 568 calls to date.

**American Red Cross** – Assisting with Shelter requests.

**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 completed health and wellness checks in Malden. Aerial assessment photos taken of Sikeston, Kennett and Malden.

**Salvation Army** – Assisting in feeding operations at various sites, as needed.

**Weather:**

**Gust northwest winds and extremely cold are expected to continue to affect southeast Missouri into Wednesday. The National Weather Service says wind chill values will range from zero to 10 below tonight and early Wednesday. Overnight low temperatures will be around zero with Wednesday’s high in the mid 20s. Winds during the day will be between 5-to-15 miles per hour, with gusts near 20. Winds should die down Wednesday night with a low of 15. High temperatures should climb into the 40s on Thursday and into the 50s for Friday and Saturday. There’s a chance of showers each day from Saturday through Monday.**

**Point of Contact:**

**The State Emergency Management Agency can be contacted at 573-526-9100 from 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. daily. Emergency calls after hours can be made to the Duty Officer at 573-751-2748.**