

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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Situation Report Winter Storm Event February 4, 2009 12:00 PM

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 associated with a running a generator in their garage.** Officials report power is out on about **22,000** meters across south and southeast Missouri. Dept of Social Services report **18** shelters with **636** 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. Governor Nixon requested an expedited Declaration of this disaster from the President. On Friday, the President approved Gov. Nixon's request for emergency assistance. 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:

Ameren UE – About **700** meters are without power in southeast Missouri.

Missouri Electric Cooperatives – Several cooperatives are reporting about **15,100** meters without power.

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

Counties/Cities Reports:

Carter County – Health and wellness checks were continuing. **Water and MREs are being delivered.** **Still a few residents reportedly without power.** **Some roads are still being cleared.** No critical needs at this time.

Dunklin County – City of Malden has **95%** electrical power. City of Campbell is up to **60%** power. **City of Holcomb is at 40% power.** **City of Clarkton reports power is at 100%.** **Boil Water Order for Malden has been lifted.** **Precautionary Boil Water Orders in effect for Arbyrd, Cardwell and Clarkton.** **Three overnight shelters are operating.**

Howell County – Still about 200-300 residents are without power. Most roads are open, at least single lane. **No critical needs at this time.**

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.

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. Incident Support Team has been released. Schools are still out. **Power is back on in Portageville.**

Oregon County – County reports power restoration is at about 95%. Nearly all roads are open – just a few with some ice or snow still on them. City of Alton still has some scattered outages and debris issues.

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 - City of Caruthersville has 100% of its power back on. All Boil Water Orders in the county have been lifted. **Some of the schools in the county resumed class on Wednesday.**

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. Hospital staff need is on going; they have a large population of patients. **Working with DHSS to switch out medical staff.**

Stoddard County – All water districts are back up on electrical grid power or generator power. 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 **22** 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 10th. 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 (**18 shelters with 636 clients**). Salvation Army, Red Cross and others continue to coordinate requests for food and water. People with on-going problems – electrical weather head, food, water, and home damage should call United Way 211. 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 was 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. 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 – Working on a flyer for public safety tips.

ESF-16 Missouri National Guard – MONG has its 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 **658** 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:

The National Weather Service reports sunny skies and warmer temperatures are ahead for the next couple days across southeast Missouri. Today’s high temperature will be near the 40-degree mark, with a low tonight in the low 30s. Friday’s high will be around 55. A chance of showers returns Saturday and continues into next Tuesday. Highs during that time will be in the mid to upper 50s with lows in mid 40s.

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.