

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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Situation Report Winter Storm Event February 5, 2009 5:00 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 **20,090** meters across south and southeast Missouri. Dept of Social Services report there are **8** shelters open with **225** 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 – With a few minor exceptions, customers are fully restored in Southeast Missouri.

Missouri Electric Cooperatives – Several cooperatives are reporting about 15,090 meters without power.

Missouri Public Utilities Alliance - An estimated 5,000 meters remain without power.

Counties/Cities Reports:

Carter County – Health and wellness checks were continuing. Water and MREs are being delivered. There are a few residents reportedly without power. Some roads are still being cleared.

Dunklin County –Officials report widespread outages throughout the county, although many of the cities are producing their own electricity by using large generators. Precautionary Boil Water Orders in effect for Arbyrd and Cardwell. Schools are still closed.

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. **Nearly all schools have resumed class.**

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. **Most Schools are still out, but are planning on opening on Monday.** Power is back on in Portageville. **Rural areas are still out.**

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.

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. **Officials reported widespread outages continue in rural parts of the county.**

Ripley County – County reports power restoration is about 75%. Health and wellness checks have been completed. They are continuing to delivering water and MREs to the more remote sections of the County.

Scott County – An estimated **70%** of customers in the county have had power restored. City of Sikeston reports **50%** 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. **All schools are back in session, except for one parochial school which will reopen on Friday.**

Stoddard County – Shelters are open in Advance, Bloomfield, Puxico and the Essex area. Power is about 75% in county. Dexter school is open but others in the county have not yet re-opened. **The shelter located in Richardson School is being moved to Harvest Assemblies of God Church in Essex. The school will re-open Monday for normal classes.**

State Agencies:

ESF-1 Transportation - Missouri Department of Transportation reports **8** road closures in southeast Missouri, either due to utility damage or debris on the road. MoDOT 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. DNR is monitoring several Boil Water Orders which remain in effect in the area. Conservation has one chainsaw crew clearing debris from blocked roads. Seven Boil Water Orders are still in effect, all others have been lifted.

ESF-4/9 Fire/Search and Rescue - Missouri State Fire Marshal indicates 14 firefighters were sent to affected areas under mutual aid in Kennett.

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 (**225** people stayed in **8** overnight shelters). Salvation Army, Red Cross and others continue to coordinate requests for food and water. Some commercial MREs manufactured by Standing Rock Brand - Red Cloud Food Service of Elgin, Illinois may contain potentially tainted peanut butter products. FEMA has a press release on this issue. The state has not purchased any potentially tainted products from FEMA. Officials are checking purchases from other vendors. ESF-6 agencies should check their stocks. Multi-Agency Resource Centers will open next week at Kennett, Sikeston, and Poplar Bluff.

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 and 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. Working with the DMAT on nurses and surgeons for over the weekend. Seven nursing homes still on generator power in Southeast, Missouri.

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. **Troop E is assisting local law enforcement agencies to supplement local law enforcement staff.**

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. 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. 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. **Mobile shelter is going back to St. Louis, but they are still willing to help where needed.**

Volunteer Agencies:

United Way – 211 – People with on-going problems – electrical weather head, food, water, and home damage should call United Way 211. They have received over **700** 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 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 in the process of identifying locations for Multi-Agency Resource Centers (MARC's) for individuals impacted.

Weather:

National Weather Service reports clear skies throughout the State of Missouri. It will continue to warm with highs near 54 on tomorrow and a high near 60 on Saturday and Sunday. There is a chance of showers beginning Sunday night into Wednesday night, remaining warm. Scattered thunderstorms are possible Monday and Wednesday.

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.