

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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Situation Report Winter Storm Event February 9, 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 **11,030** customers across southeast Missouri. Dept of Social Services report there are **6** shelters open with **33** 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 Friday, 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 – Several cooperatives are reporting about 8,830 customers without power with 2300 crews working in Southeast Missouri. They are working to have a majority of outages repaired by this weekend.

Missouri Public Utilities Alliance - Approximately 2,200 customers remain without power in Southeast Missouri.

Counties/Cities Reports:

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

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. There are still many power outages in the southern half of the County. **In Kennett, a shelter is scheduled to close on Monday.**

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. Many homes in rural areas are still without power. The EOC has returned to normal operations. Officials report phone service is restored. **Some schools re-opened on Monday.**

Oregon County – Officials report most all power is restored with isolated outages remaining.

Ozark County – There are still some residents without power. All roads are passable. County agencies are continuing health and welfare checks. Volunteers are delivering MRE's and water.

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. One shelter will close Tuesday.**

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 **4 minor roads closed** in southeast Missouri, either due to utility damage or debris on the road. MoDOT extended Commercial Motor Vehicle waivers until February 10th. **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. Scattered phone outages reported throughout southeast Missouri. 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 (**33** people stayed in **6** overnight shelters). 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.

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. DMAT personnel are assisting at 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 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 providing support for shelters. Approximately **33 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: A Severe Thunderstorm Watch remains in effect until 7pm this evening for many counties in the western Missouri. Showers and thunderstorms are possible for most of the State through this evening. Hi today ranging from the upper 50s to near 65. Winds are projected at 22-26 mph gusting to near 40 mph for much of the State. Tuesday it will be partly sunny with highs near 70-75. Winds near 15 mph and will gust to near 28 mph. There is a good chance of showers and thunderstorms with heavy rainfall over much of the State tomorrow night. Some storms around Central Missouri could be severe with large hail and damaging winds possible.

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.