

STATE STATUS REPORT

- 1 TYPE OF INCIDENT
Severe Thunderstorms with tornados, heavy rain and high winds
2. INCIDENT REPORT DATE:
May 7th 2015
3. INCIDENT: (Brief Description of the Incident)
On May 6th a line of severe thunderstorms moved into the state causing damages from high winds including tornados and flooding
4. LOCAL RESPONSE (By County):

Adams: The tornado hit around 4:20 pm on Wed. Soon after that the Roseland Fire Chief, Randy Klein, opened up the fire station as a Command Post. His firefighters went door-to-door checking on residents of the affected area. His initial report to the EOC was that there were no injuries, 2 houses destroyed and 10-12 houses damaged. Power was lost so we immediately called Southern Power and they were there quickly and started the process of restoring power. All roads into town were blocked by the Adams County Sheriff Department who only let in residents with ID's and selected emergency workers. Responders from Hastings, Bladen, Holstein, and Hastings Rural were clearing roads and piling debris. Residents were helping one another in securing the damaged homes from weather. About 8 o'clock with the houses secured and village roads passable, workers ended operations for the night. Power was restored on the West side that evening. Thursday volunteers started the task of debris removal. It was decided to take it immediately to the private landfill. So the trees and limbs were taken to a future burn site, metals were taken to the recycle center and trash and debris was taken to the landfill. Power was restored to all homes that had no electrical damage and electricians were working to make repairs to allow Southern to establish power. It is estimated that sometime Friday (May 8) all the debris will be removed or moved and that cleanup will be shutdown. At this time there are no plans for working this weekend. There is still a lot of debris in the fields surrounding Roseland but the fields are too wet to get vehicles in there. The plan is to wait until next weekend and see how dry it is and then get teams to start field cleanup.

Jefferson County: An elderly woman was found dead in her flooded basement. This is the only known fatality for this event. Electrical power has been restored in the affected area. Schools, government offices, the hospital, water, waste water, and gas service are all operating normally. Water is still over many county roads so there is little damage assessment that can be done, one culvert was known to be washed out.

Lancaster: The rainfall/flooding event in Lincoln, Lancaster County started Wednesday evening, May 6 resulting in several inches of rain throughout the county. Levels of area waterways were near capacity most of Thursday resulting in several road restrictions and closures. City of Lincoln Public Works and Lancaster County Engineer's Office are still conducting damage assessments. Two bridges in Lancaster County suffered damage. Further inspection is needed to determine the extent of the damage. Mayor Chris Beutler issued an executive order Thursday afternoon declaring an emergency in Lincoln. Residents in two neighborhoods near downtown, the South Bottoms and the North Bottoms, were encouraged to voluntarily evacuated. Those who evacuated were allowed to return home Friday morning.

Nuckolls: 4 homes were completely destroyed, numerous farm buildings were destroyed, at this time an undetermined amount of county roads and bridges damaged and destroyed. At this writing the total number of miles and bridges are being determined, the amount is significant. County road crews and public power companies are working day and night to regain power and travel routes in the eastern part of the county. We have had no injuries and have found placement for the families without homes. Travel in most of the county can be made with pickups or machinery and crews are making fast progress. Multiple volunteers have been involved in the cleanup and progress is being made.

Saline: Clean-up and assessment are underway in the Saline County village of DeWitt this morning (Friday, May 8) following the slow exit of floodwaters from torrential rainfall (12+ inches) the night of May 6. An overnight curfew ended at 8 a.m. The town is open for those wishing to return to their homes and persons coming to clean up, but spontaneous volunteers are not being encouraged at this time. There are concerns

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with possible natural gas leaks in some areas due to some compromised basement walls. Residents and public works representatives are currently assessing needs and Black Hills Energy is conducting house-to-house inspections of the natural gas system. The water and electrical systems remain at full efficiency; the wastewater system is operating at capacity with no problems. Public Health Solutions, the district health department, has set up an information center in the DeWitt Legion Club located 1 block north of the post office. Tetanus shots will be offered at no charge today (Friday) from 1 to 5 p.m.

Thayer: Early damage reports included one home that was destroyed southeast of Hebron. The family was temporarily relocated in Hebron with relatives. A new business north of Hebron had a new metal pole building destroyed. Other damage included tree damage from being uprooted to large limbs having been broken. A train along the Union Pacific Railroad south of Highway 4 near Highway 5 intersection was derailed but not over the crossing. Apparently the train was empty coal cars. Heavy rain resulted in water in the Parkview Nursing Home and Assisted Living in Deshler at 4th and Park Street. Water in the buildings was estimated at 6" deep. Water outside in the street was fairly deep due to the buildings being elevated. Deshler Fire Department and mutual aid from Hebron Fire Department was used to evacuate the residents to the Deshler High School. Additional community evacuees were moved to the Deshler High School as well. Total sheltered overnight Wednesday into afternoon Thursday was 43. Red Cross assisted with Shelter Operations at Deshler High School. One home at the south edge of Deshler burned down because Deshler Fire Crews were unable to get to it due to flood water along Locust Street which is south of the High School property. Thayer County Health Services Hospital, Blue Valley Nursing and Care Homes, and Terrace Assisted Living were cut off from town through the night until safe routes around the flood areas could be found. Spring Creek Bridge South of the Hospital was lost and this will cause extended response times for Emergency Response coming to the emergency Room from the south until the bridge can be fixed. 4 bridges were lost in the county including Spring Creek Bridge. Many miles of County roads were damaged, estimate not yet complete and adding up. Cleanup of sewage backed up into basements as well as flood water remains an issue. Getting information out to residents for safe cleanup is being accomplished. Livestock and crop losses are not complete but expected to be significant.

5. STATE RESPONSE:

The State EOC is open to level 2 Partial Activation with all ESF working from their facilities. NEMA will staff the SEOC 24 hours through Sunday May 10th.

DEQ: The DeWitt Fire Chief has asked for the same information we sent to the Clerk yesterday on debris removal and burning of trees and brush. Beatrice notified us of the need to by-pass their treatment plant. We will continue to provide assistance to Burlington Northern at their Hobson Yard – they continue to use our boom to protect wetlands/Salt Creek. We do not plan to be on-site today unless requested by Burlington. Our tentative plan is to tour impacted areas at some point next week. It will depend on the weather this weekend. Our Emergency Response Team will obviously respond if needed, but in terms of debris management we'll wait until the water goes down and the locals have had time to collect their thoughts and come up with a plan.

DHHS: Crete Area Medical and Jefferson Community Health Center are all OK there are some issues with roads being inaccessible but staff worked things out, so they are fully staffed. Thayer County Health Services had no structural damage but do have damage to some roof vents. Hospital personal assisted the nursing home in Deshler with evacuations. They evacuated 36 nursing home residents to Blue Valley Lutheran Home in Hebron. Municipal Water facility report: Fairbury: Water Treatment Plant flooded, Beatrice: distribution lines going across rail crossing/river at risk, Dewitt: Ok, as long as they maintain pressure, Little Blue NRD (purchase water from Fairbury) has 125K in storage. The line across the river is washed out. Rest of the system is ok. The Lincoln Regional Center has a lot of water on the campus, tunnels are flooded but the balance of our 24 hour facilities are ok.

DNR: As of this morning, following gages have readings in flooding level:

Moderate Flooding

Little Blue River near Fairbury

Big Blue River at Beatrice

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Salt Creek near Greenwood
Salt Creek at Ashland
All are forecast to decline to Minor stages this afternoon.

Minor Flooding

Big Blue River near Barneston
Turkey Creek near Wilber
Big Blue River near Crete
Salt Creek near Ashland
Wahoo Creek at Ashland
Stream gaging crews will go to Beatrice area for river measurement and we will continue to monitor river conditions.

DOR: The following highways remain closed: 136 in Beatrice, Highway 66 detour at Ashland and Highway 53 near Fairbury. The Governor's Declaration has been given to the Federal Aid Highway Program so they are able to open up that program to assist in repairs to roads on the Federal Aid Program. DOR Engineers are making inspections of bridges as the water recedes.

NEMA: Continued to call and gather damage information from local Emergency Managers. There was a request from a trucking firm who is contracted to assist the railroads with damage repairs. They want an exemption under the Declaration on to extend the hours their drivers can put in. This request is being reviewed by NSP and the Governor's Office. The FEMA Region VII Liaison to Nebraska was requested and will be in the SEOC on Monday to assist in planning for recovery operations, including an evaluation of this event rising to the level of a Federal Disaster. NEMA continues to field calls from citizens and providing them with information or identifying the best place for them to get the information they need.

Military: Task#1: 7 - 8 May Provide 2 high profile vehicles & 4 personnel vicinity Dewitt, NE in order to conduct wellness checks and transport civilian personnel to safety. Task#2: By 08:00 May 8th provide no more than 20 personnel and 5 vehicles to support the Nebraska State Patrol vicinity Dewitt, NE for traffic control. Task#3: Standby mission, provide emergency high water transport of non-ambulatory personnel across 6th street Bridge in Beatrice. NE Future Operations: All indications are that TASK#1 will end today all others will continue as planned. Personnel: 20 Logistics: Projected 7 vehicles (2 LMTVs & 5 HMMWVs) Nebraska National Guard JOC also provided 10 Motorola radios to support the Soldiers

Voluntary Agencies:

All Hands Volunteers: Has been in contact with NEMA VAL, to continue evaluating the situation. In past operations, they have provided volunteer management, debris clean-up, demolition, and mud-out.

American Red Cross: Currently conducting sheltering operations. Individual and family requests for assistance should be directed to their 800-number: 844-334-7569.

AmeriCorps: Has a team available to assist with recovery efforts.

Information Technology Disaster Resource Center: Received an inquiry from a Nebraska member about flooding and communications resources for Saline County. Available to respond with technical resources.

Mennonite Disaster Services: Have been to Roseland, but their assessment was that locals and volunteers already present had a good grasp of clean-up within the village. Clean up of fields will need to wait until the water recedes and the field dries. Will reassess when waters recede.

Nebraska Extension: With offices in 83 of 93 counties, they are standing by and ready to assist in getting information out, assessing damage, and resource damage. They are currently directing inquiries to their website: www.flood.unl.edu.

The Salvation Army: Dispatched to DeWitt for mass feeding at shelter site. Demobilized upon arrival (the need was already met). Canteen is in Lincoln, ready for deployment. They are paying for some local feeding expenses in Fairbury and DeWitt. They are mobilizing clean-up kits, to be ready for distribution once the waters recede.

Southern Baptists Disaster Relief: They have a mud-out team available in Omaha. They also have teams in Missouri that can be quickly mobilized. Their priority would be the elderly, single parents, and the uninsured.

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Team Rubicon: Regional Field Operations have expressed that they are available for basement muckout, volunteer reception, volunteer management, debris management, debris push-to-curb, expedient home repairs, and chainsaw operations.

United Methodist Disaster Response: On stand-by to provide churches as shelters (in partnership with Red Cross), cleaning buckets and Early Response Teams when the waters have subsided, and then Long Term Recovery for permanent repairs/rebuilds.

World Renew: Closely monitoring the situation in Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma. Available to respond and facilitate the organization of Long Term Recovery Groups.

6. POTENTIAL STATE/FEDERAL INVOLVEMENT:

Nebraska has requested a Liaison from FEMA Region VII there are no other requests for Federal Assistance

7. REPORT AUTHOR:

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