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# Joplin, Missouri hit by EF-5 Tornado May 22, 2011

# May 1, 2012

#### **BUSINESS INFORMATION**

- 553 businesses destroyed or severely damaged
- 4,500-5,000 employees affected
- Approximately 3,000 were kept on payroll in some capacity
- 446 businesses have reopened or are in the process of reopening
- 39 businesses have indicated that they will not rebuild/reopen
- 21 new businesses have opened\*

\*This count does NOT include contractors/builders that have set up local offices since tornado

	Open	Closed	Unsure**
General Businesses	287	17	53
Medical/Dental	128	2	3
Daycares	7	4	2
Churches	19	0	9
Apartment Complexes	5	16	5
Totals	446	39	72

#### **BREAKDOWN of AFFECTED BUSINESSES**

\*\*Unsure includes those still debating location and/or still settling with insurance

- The Business Recovery Center (BRC) opened on Thursday, May 26, the fastest BRC opening in U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) history
- The BRC included the Small Business Technology Development Center (SBTDC) from Missouri Southern State University, legal and CPA services and various other business resources as needed by the business community
- While the SBA has ended operations in the area, the SBTDC and other services remains open to help business recovery in the Chamber owned and managed Newman Innovation Center
- SBA has approved \$13.9 million in disaster loans for businesses. SBA made 2,110 contacts with area businesses from May 26, 2012 through August 26, 2011
- Business Recovery Fund to help businesses with long term recovery was established by Wednesday, May 25. In first 48 hours, fund raised nearly \$50,000. Tax credits are available to increase fund to a potential \$7 million

- SBTDC has had 228 counseling sessions and 30 conferences (workshops) with a total of 265 attendees at the MSSU location and 163 counseling sessions at the BIG Hub location inside of the Newman Innovation Center
- Joplin Tomorrow Fund was created by Former Senator Jack Danforth to help with job creation and business growth. Fund is at \$1.4 million currently
- Business Recovery Expo held for businesses on July 8, 2011. More than 30 exhibitors were on hand to offer various products and services to aid the businesses in their recovery efforts

# **COMMUNICATION INFORMATION**

- The first Member communication after the tornado was made at 6:52 pm on May 22, via social media. The Chamber's Facebook page has continued to be a valuable source of information for our Members as well as the public. All information posted is verified and credible, which was crucial immediately after the disaster
- By Monday, May 23, contact was made with Members via email (assuming they had access)
- Social media was a crucial communication source after the tornado. Members and other business owners might have been without their computers or land-line telephones, but nearly all were able to maintain connectivity via cell phones and therefore had access to social media as well
- Full communication functions were restored to the Chamber offices by Thursday, May 26
- Chamber staff immediately began distributing information from FEMA, SBA, City of Joplin and SBTDC to businesses that need the information regardless of membership status. Within two weeks of tornado, contact had been made with all the destroyed Member businesses; within six weeks all destroyed businesses as well as the 800-plus Chamber Member businesses that were not affected, had been personally contacted. Contacts for status check updates are being made on regular basis with all damaged and destroyed businesses
- Chamber is maintaining a public list of business status information for affected businesses located at http://www.joplincc.com/businessstatus.html

## **CITY OF JOPLIN**

- Joplin population approximately 50,175 (2010 Census)
- Daytime population approximately 240,000
- EF-5 Tornado was <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> mile to <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> mile wide, traveled approximately 13 miles;
- Touched down at edge of western city limits, traveled on the ground throughout all of City to eastern city limits plus several miles past into the City of Duquesne
- Tornado winds estimated at 200-plus mph; NWS indicates may have moved as slowly at 10 mph in some places
- Affected homes and businesses in both Jasper and Newton Counties in Missouri
- 161 lives lost due to tornado (current as of November 21, 2011)

#### **RESIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

• Estimated 7,500 residential dwellings in the City were damaged by storm

• More than 17,000 people affected by tornado

#### CITY PROPERTY DAMAGED

- Emergency Sirens and CISCO Aironet
- Two Fire Stations No. 2 & No. 4 completely destroyed and Fire Apparatus lost
- Senior Citizens Center, Cunningham Aquatic Center & Park, Parr Hill Park, Garvin Park, Mohaska Park, Ewert Park
- South Police Branch (minor damage)
- MAPS Trolley shelters (multiple), curb, streets and sidewalk, lights, signs and signals and building structure located at 20<sup>th</sup> & Connecticut

#### **VOLUNTEER INFORMATION**

- 126,804 volunteers, including those registered through AmeriCorps and from other organizations who have reported hours to AmeriCorps
- 775,309.5 hours of service from all reporting organizations/agencies. That's the equivalent of just over 82 years' worth of service at a 24/7 pace since 5/22.
- Volunteer Information Line for those interested in volunteering: 417-625-3543

#### HOSPITALS

## Mercy Hospital – Joplin (Previously St. John's Regional Medical Center)

- Immediately after the tornado, a tent triage center was erected, across the street from the hospital
- Within 24 hours, Memorial Hall became a triage and emergency center, within one week, a 60-bed, temporary field hospital was established, on campus
- Within 3 months a modular hospital was erected on site to care for patients until component facility opened
- Within 8.5 months, a component hospital with 120 beds was constructed to care for patients until the new facility opens in 2015

## Freeman Health System

- More than 500 wounded were treated at Freeman West in the first hours after the storm. As the days progressed, more than 1,700 victims of the tornado would seek care from Freeman. In the first twelve hours after the storm, an astounding 22 life-saving surgeries were performed at Freeman Hospital West
- 10 major construction projects are underway or have been completed to meet the growing healthcare needs of community. Projects include: completion of two floors that will add 58 beds, addition of a step-down Intensive Care Unit, Freeman Neosho Emergency Department expansion, establishment of Will's Place (a healing center for children), and construction of a new rehabilitation facility

#### JOPLIN SCHOOLS

- Total losses include; Joplin High School, East Middle School, Franklin Technology Center, Irving Elementary School, Emerson Elementary School and a vacant old South Middle School
- Damaged or partial losses include; Cecil Floyd Elementary School, Duquesne Elementary School, Kelsey Norman elementary School Roi S. Wood Administration Building

- 2011-2012 post-tornado enrollment: 7,468 in 19 schools. Enrollment is only down 275 students from 2010-2011 enrollment
- More than 4,200 students were left without a school to attend
- Schools opened ON TIME 87 days following the tornado with more than 3,700 students in temporary facilities
- The temporary facility for East Middle School was provided by Joplin Business and Industrial Development Council and the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, the Chamber made the connections for the acquisition of the Northpark Campus
- The Joplin Schools have committed to returning students to permanent facilities by August 2014 Confirmed with positive bond issue vote on April 3, 2012

#### **FEMA**

- More than \$20.8 Million has been approved for households under Individuals and Households Program (IHP), which has two primary components: Housing Assistance and Other Needs Assistance.
  - Housing Assistance includes \$7,944,264 for Rental Assistance and Home Repair or Replacement funds for 2,977 households
  - Other Needs Assistance (disaster assistance for other necessary expenses and serious needs that are not housing (for example: medical, dental, lost eyeglasses, transportation, etc.) includes \$12,687,000 approved for 2,647 households

#### FEMA TEMPORARY HOUSING

- Total of 359 families are currently placed in Temporary Housing Units (THU). At peak occupancy, 586 households lived in THUs.
- City of Joplin providing land for three Group Site Locations for Housing in north Joplin.
  - Hope Haven Village and Officer Jeff Taylor Memorial Acres support 346 housing units; Hope Haven 2, the third site, accommodates 51 units.
- FEMA also has Temporary Housing Units in 15 area commercial parks.

#### FEMA CRISIS COUNSELING

• FEMA approved an Immediate Services Program grant for more than \$1.5 million to the Missouri Department of Mental Health for crisis counseling services for survivors of the severe storms, flooding and tornadoes. Of that grant, more than \$1.4 million was provided to Ozark Access Crisis Intervention (ACI) hotline for Jasper and Newton counties.

#### FEMA LONG TERM RECOVERY and the CITIZENS ADVISORY RECOVERY TEAM

- A team of long-term community recovery specialists has been working with Joplin since the tornado to help organize and launch a local, grass-roots effort that will enable citizens and local leaders to envision and plan for their future, post-disaster. As a result, the Citizens Advisory Recovery Team (CART) was born and is already addressing long-term recovery needs and opportunities
- On January 19, 2012, community leaders (The Joplin City Council, the Joplin Schools Board of Education, the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce and the Duquesne City Aldermen) voted

unanimously in favor of the CART's recovery framework that will lay the groundwork for the future of the area

• The City of Joplin, Missouri, passed a resolution on April 2, 2012, authorizing the Joplin Redevelopment Corporation to begin contract negotiations with Wallace Bajjali Development Partners, L.P., to become the master developer for Joplin redevelopment. Upon completion of signed agreements, Wallace Bajjali will lead a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) to help Joplin redevelop areas impacted by the tornado

#### FEMA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

- FEMA provides grants to local, state and federal governmental entities, Tribal nations and certain not-for-profit organizations to help reimburse eligible costs to remove debris, provide emergency protective measures and to repair or replace damaged public infrastructure and facilities.
- In Jasper and Newton counties, **349 projects totaling an estimated \$149.7 million**\* have been identified for 25 eligible entities, including local governments, school districts and critical facilities like hospitals. Of this, more than **\$95 million** has already been obligated to the State of Missouri for disbursement to eligible entities.

Note: This figure represents the federal share – or 75 percent – of the estimated, eligible project cost. It includes reimbursement for some eligible debris-removal costs but does not account for the large-scale, debris-removal operations in the Expedited Debris Removal area managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.