



# Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce

More than 550 businesses were destroyed or severely damaged. Over 1000 others were affected in some way. Today, one year later, 80% of those destroyed employers have reopened their doors and are aided in the phenomenal recovery that Joplin and Duquesne have experienced.

Within two hours the chamber was communicating with members and the nation watching the tragedy unfold. Social media was a critical information tool used effectively by the chamber communications staff to share vital, accurate information as it became

available. Social media proved to be one of the only reliable communication tools immediately after the tornado and has proven to still be effective one year later.

Chamber staff immediately began distributing information from FEMA, SBA, City of Joplin and Small Business Technology and Development Center (SBTDC) to all employers regardless of membership status. Within two weeks of tornado, contact had been made with all the destroyed member businesses (200+); within six weeks all destroyed businesses (553) as well as the 800+ Chamber

Member businesses that were not affected, had been personally contacted. Status check updates are being made on regular basis. The chamber is maintaining an accurate, complete public list of business status information for affected businesses located at

<http://www.joplincc.com/businessstatus.html>.

The Joplin region was “open for business” immediately following the tornado and at the one year anniversary, the chamber has been proud to welcome more than 25 completely new employers to our area.

Through its partnerships with the SBTDC, the City of Joplin, Joplin Schools and many other agencies and groups, the successful recovery of the area employers has been an integral piece of the entire recovery effort of Joplin, Duquesne and the entire region.

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One  
Year.



One  
Community.



One  
Direction.



- ◆ 553 businesses destroyed or severely damaged affecting 4,500-5,000 employees. 446 businesses have reopened or are in the process
- ◆ Approximately 3,000 were kept on immediately on payroll
- ◆ 25 new businesses have opened