

Missouri Tornado Recovery Fact Sheet

Joplin ♦ Duquesne ♦ May 2013



FEMA



On May 22, 2011, powerful tornadoes swept through Jasper and Newton counties in southwest Missouri. The city of Duquesne was devastated, as was a large portion of Joplin. Tornado strength in those areas was at its greatest – EF-5 – with winds exceeding 250 miles per hour. Federal assistance was on the ground within hours of impact.

Two years later, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and its partner agencies continue to support recovery efforts as the counties and communities rebuild. Here's a look at that assistance today:

Assistance-At-A-Glance:

Information represents Jasper and Newton counties as a whole – including the cities of Joplin and Duquesne – unless otherwise noted. All data current as of May 15, 2013

- **More than 13 federal agencies** supported critical emergency needs and functions for Jasper and Newton counties. At peak staffing, **more than 820 FEMA employees** worked the Joplin response and recovery efforts.
- **FEMA and state officials immediately established four joint task forces** to manage the largest recovery priorities – Housing, Debris Removal, Schools and Critical Infrastructure. The multi-agency Housing Task Force has continued to regularly meet to address long-term housing solutions.
- **10,746 Missourians** in Jasper and Newton counties registered for state and federal disaster assistance.
- **More than \$21 million in grants** has been approved for eligible Missourians in the two counties to help pay for home repairs, temporary housing and other critical disaster-related needs through FEMA's Individuals and Households Program.
- FEMA continues to provide direct, temporary housing to **12 households** occupying temporary housing units, among **five** sites throughout the metro Joplin area. At the peak of this effort, 586 households were assisted at 15 sites.
- Disaster Unemployment Assistance was provided to help workers whose employment was impacted by the tornado but who did not qualify for regular unemployment aid. In the two counties, **541 claims totaling \$353,943** were paid.
- A grant of **more than \$5.3 million** from the FEMA Disaster Case Management Program was awarded to the Missouri Department of Economic Development to fund disaster case managers to work directly with survivors. The case managers, from agencies such as Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, American Red Cross, Salvation Army and Lutheran Social Services, also have been assisting with developing individual disaster recovery plans that may include referrals, monitoring of services and advocacy, as needed.

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- FEMA has provided more than **\$4.8 million** to help fund crisis counseling services through community-based outreach and short-term interventions. The services help disaster survivors review their recovery options, discuss their reactions and learn coping strategies.

- The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved more than **\$43.4 million** in low-interest disaster loans for **521** tornado-impacted individuals, businesses and not-for-profits. SBA provides these loans to help cover property losses. In addition, SBA provides economic injury loans (working capital) for eligible businesses.

417 low-interest disaster loans to homeowners for \$26.8 million

100 low-interest disaster loans to businesses for \$16.4 million

4 low-interest disaster loans to not-for-profits for \$256,400

- FEMA expects to spend **nearly \$150 million*** in both counties to help remove debris, provide emergency protective measures and to permanently repair or replace public buildings and infrastructure damaged or destroyed by the tornado. **About \$20 million** of this amount will help fund eligible recovery costs for the City of Joplin; about **\$2.5 million** for the City of Duquesne. So far, about **\$97.5 million** has been paid to the State of Missouri for disbursement to **25** eligible entities, including local governments, school districts and critical facilities such as hospitals. ** Funding subject to change based on eligibility review process and potential insurance proceeds. Does not include costs for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Expedited Debris Removal operations.*

- Federal, state and local officials partnered with **The Independent Living Center** in Joplin and other disability organizations to serve as a resource for individuals with disabilities, and access and functional needs – ensuring that people with disabilities, seniors and those with low English proficiency had equal opportunity to access and understand disaster assistance.

- **FEMA recovery specialists** helped the Joplin community establish a citizen-based, long-term recovery effort known as the Joplin Area Citizens Advisory Recovery Team (CART). With input from a broad cross-section of the community, CART developed a long-term recovery strategy, the implementation of which is underway.

- FEMA continues to work with a **local Long-Term Recovery Committee**, representing more than 50 voluntary agencies. To date, the committee has handled more than **1,500 cases** of unmet, disaster-related needs.

- To date, **more than 176,869 citizen volunteers** from across the country have provided more than **1.1 MILLION HOURS** of community service by helping with cleanup, repairs and home construction.

- FEMA provided **more than \$341,000** to the Corporation for National and Community Service for assistance from AmeriCorps to support local and state authorities. About **350 AmeriCorps** members from seven states worked **more than 76,000 hours** in Joplin on various recovery projects, including **2,723** homeowner assistance requests. AmeriCorps' efforts, which lasted **18 months**, also helped Joplin earn an offset towards the cost-share of some of its local recovery costs.



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Highlights—Two Years of Progress:

FEMA continues to work closely with the State of Missouri, the City of Joplin, the City of Duquesne and other impacted entities – including Joplin Public Schools and Mercy Hospital – as long-term recovery efforts move forward.

Housing:

FEMA has supported local housing efforts in the following ways:

- Awarded more than **\$8.2 million** in grants for **2,980** eligible applicants to repair disaster damage to their houses in order to make their homes safe, sanitary and functional.
- Provided **more than \$12.7 million** for **2,652** applicants who were unable to qualify for low-interest disaster loans to replace personal property, and to help pay disaster-related funeral costs.
- Initiated a Direct Housing Program to provide temporary housing for eligible individuals and families who needed a short-term place to live until they could find longer-term housing.



At the onset of this effort, FEMA placed temporary housing units in available spaces at 12 commercial mobile homes parks to house eligible tornado survivors. Three community group sites then were built to accommodate the overflow of displaced residents. The sites included tornado storm shelters and recreational areas.

At the peak of this short-term housing effort, **586 individuals and families** lived in temporary units among all 15 sites.

The program initially was authorized for the statutory 18-month disaster assistance period, which ended Nov. 9, 2012. Joplin officials requested an extension of this housing effort to allow more time for repaired or new local housing resources, such as apartments and houses, to come online so that still-displaced families had more options. An extension was granted until **June 9, 2013**, at which time the temporary housing program ends.

Occupants remaining in the units after Dec. 1, 2012, began paying rent of varying amounts until they moved out. At the end of the program, the group-site locations will be returned to the City of Joplin, which owns the properties, after remaining housing units are removed. The Joplin temporary housing program is one of FEMA Region VII's largest direct-housing operations.

- Provided oversight/funding for an Expedited Debris Removal (EDR) program to clear loose debris from public rights-of-way and private, residential property in the hardest-hit areas to help hasten the community's economic recovery.

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Infrastructure and Critical Facilities:



Fire Stations & Equipment:

- Two temporary fire stations were set up to replace Stations #2 and #4, heavily damaged by the tornado, until new buildings can be built.

The modular units, funded by FEMA and built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, include office space and sleeping quarters for fire personnel, covered bays for fire equipment and tornado storm shelters.

The city's insurance is expected to cover the costs of the two new replacement fire stations.

FEMA expects to fund **about \$285,000** towards the cost of replacing two destroyed fire trucks.

Hospital/Medical Care:

- St. John's Mercy Hospital (since renamed Mercy), and many supporting facilities, such as physician offices, clinics and pharmacies were rendered inoperable after taking a direct hit.

A makeshift, temporary hospital (tent-like structure provided by the State of Missouri) was operational within a week, enabling doctors to restore much of the hospital's surgical capabilities.

Modular units were brought in to replace the tent and to provide a more expansive hospital environment until a new, interim facility could be built.

On Aug. 16, 2011, St. John's announced plans to build a new 327-bed hospital in Joplin about three miles from its tornado-ravaged facility. The new hospital is part of a nearly \$950 million rebuilding plan to restore a large portion of the city's damaged healthcare infrastructure. Funding will come from the hospital's insurance proceeds and other sources.

In April 2012, a 102-bed interim hospital opened to its first patients. The facility, constructed of component units, is intended to be a fully certifiable serviceable and certified healthcare facility offering a similar level of services to the destroyed hospital. Anticipated use: three-to-five years.

In total, FEMA expects to spend about **\$47.6 million** towards an estimated **\$58 million** in eligible disaster costs for Mercy Hospital.



Many medical professionals have relocated to existing facilities or built new offices in the city.

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Schools:

- Tornado impact to Joplin Public Schools was significant. District has 19 schools with 7,743 students. Ten of 20 district buildings were impacted. Five schools were destroyed, four more were heavily damaged. An additional damaged facility was transitional and vacant at the time of the storm. Building damage was estimated at more than \$100 million.

An immediate goal of the school district, and local, state and federal officials was to ensure that Joplin and Duquesne schools were able to open on time.



FEMA tasked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to construct and/or install temporary facilities to meet the district's needs.

In all, 167 temporary classrooms and 67 temporary safe rooms were installed.

On Aug. 17, 2011 – 87 days after the tornado – all school locations, including temporary sites were ready to serve Joplin students.

Currently, more than 3,200 students attend school in temporary facilities. FEMA expects to spend an estimated **\$44.2 million** towards an estimated **\$59 million** in eligible costs to repair, replace and mitigate the damaged schools. Ground was broken for Joplin's new high school on May 22, 2012. New construction of several replacement schools is underway.

Parks:

- **Five** of Joplin's **24** parks were moderately-to-severely damaged by the tornado. Extensive restoration has been underway the last two years to include debris removal, facility repair, tree replanting, landscaping and new construction.

Cunningham Park, the city's signature recreational area, has seen the most dramatic change, with new playground/recreational areas, expanded gardens, and tributes to the lives lost in the tornado, Joplin's resilient spirit and the volunteers who helped rebuild the broken community.

In addition to the city's insurance, donations, volunteer labor/resources and private-sector contributions, FEMA has obligated **more than \$954,000** to date for eligible cleanup and repair costs for the following parks:

- Cunningham Park
- Parr Hill Park
- Mohaska Park
- Ewert Park
- Garvin Park



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Debris Removal:



- **More than 1,500** private, residential properties in the hardest-hit areas were cleared of loose debris under a 75-day Expedited Debris Removal (EDR) initiative authorized by President Obama on May 31, 2011 and funded by FEMA.
- About 1.2 million cubic yards of debris were removed from private property and public rights-of-way in the EDR area by government-funded contractors under the auspices of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Another 300,000 cubic yards of debris were removed from outside this area. Federal/state cost share for the EDR initiative was 90/10. FEMA's costs to date are an **estimated \$83 million**.

- Homeowners, private contractors and volunteers cleared another unknown amount of residential debris.
- An estimated 1 million cubic yards of debris was cleared from commercial properties – not eligible for FEMA debris removal assistance – via business owners, private contractors and volunteers.
- More than 228,000 cubic yards of vegetative debris was mulched for more efficient disposal.
- More than 140,000 items requiring special disposal such as household hazardous waste, white goods, electronic waste and small, motorized equipment were collected from storm debris by crews working for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA worked with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, FEMA, the City of Joplin, other federal, state and local agencies, and non-governmental entities to reuse and/or recycle all recovered white goods, propane cylinders and other items, including more than 156 tons of electronic equipment and 257 tons of white goods. Thousands of these items were broken down into components and materials such as plastic, steel, aluminum, lead and cooper for eventual recycling into a variety of new consumer products.

Mitigation:

FEMA and the State of Missouri are helping Joplin rebuild with mitigation measures that will reduce or prevent future disaster damages. These measures include funding 75 percent of the costs of tornado safe rooms and voluntary acquisitions of flood-prone properties.

To date, about **\$8.1 million** has been obligated to the State of Missouri for disbursement to **28 entities**, primarily area school districts, to fund these projects. In total, FEMA expects to spend about **\$32.9 million** on these disaster-reduction measures.