



FEMA

Fact Sheet

Disaster Recovery Information **Joplin Tornado ♦ May 14, 2012**

*Note: Information represents Jasper and Newton counties as a whole, including cities of Joplin and Duquesne.
All data is current as of May 14, 2012, unless otherwise noted.*

- **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. These task forces included numerous other local, state and federal agencies – all with the goal of bringing an experienced, comprehensive approach to recovery in these key areas.

Individuals and Businesses:

- **10,746 Missourians** in Jasper and Newton counties registered for state and federal disaster assistance.
- **Nearly \$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 Individual Assistance Program.
- FEMA also is providing **temporary housing units** for individuals and families who have not yet been able to move into a more permanent housing. These units are disbursed among 13 pre-existing commercial sites and three community sites that were built specifically to temporarily house tornado survivors. At the peak of this housing effort, 586 individuals and families were provided a temporary home in one of these sites.
 - So far, **261 households have moved out** of FEMA temporary housing and into longer-term or permanent housing.
 - **325 households** are living in temporary housing units among the 16 community and commercial sites. Of those, 217 households live in the three FEMA sites; the remaining individuals and families are spread among the 13 commercial parks.

(continued on page 2)

- Disaster Unemployment Assistance has been provided to help workers whose employment was impacted by the tornado but who do not qualify for regular unemployment aid. In the two counties, **541 claims totaling \$353,943** had been paid as of May 2, 2012.
- **The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)** has approved more than **\$41.3 million** in low-interest disaster loans for **518** 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
 - 97 low-interest disaster loans to businesses for \$14.3 million
 - 4 low-interest disaster loans to not-for-profits for \$256,400
- FEMA has provided **more than \$4.8 million** to help fund crisis counseling services through community-based outreach and short-term interventions that help disaster survivors understand and handle the feelings they are experiencing. The counseling helps them review their recovery options, discuss their reactions and learn how to use or develop coping strategies.
- 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 Catholic Charities, American Red Cross, Salvation Army and Lutheran Social Services – also will assist in developing a disaster recovery plan that may include referrals, monitoring of services and advocacy, as needed.
- **7,522** individuals visited four Disaster Recovery Centers and a Multi-Agency Resource Center to talk face-to-face with recovery specialists, access valuable recovery information and get questions answered about their individual cases.

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.
- **FEMA expects to spend nearly \$150 million** to help remove debris, provide emergency protective measures and to permanently repair or replace public buildings and infrastructure damaged or destroyed by the tornado. **To date, about \$97 million** of that amount already 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.*

(continued on page 3)

Other:

- **More than 130,000 volunteers** from across the country put in more than **810,476 hours of community service in Joplin since the tornado**, helping with everything from clean-up and repairs to home construction. The effort represents more than 82 years' worth of community service and is valued at more than \$17 million.
- FEMA has provided more than **\$341,000** in funding to the Corporation for National and Community Service for assistance from AmeriCorps to support local and state authorities. AmeriCorps St. Louis first arrived in the early hours of May 23 and has continuously been on the ground since then. Overall, **more than 350 AmeriCorps** members from seven states have served more than 76,000 hours in Joplin on various recovery projects including:
 - Coordinating the large influx of volunteers who came to Joplin to help clean up and rebuild
 - Completing more than **2,940 requests** for homeowner assistance
 - Coordinating donations
 - Removing volumes of debris, including damaged trees and stumps,
 - Building a recreational trail at FEMA's community housing sites
 - **Planting more than 800** new, donated trees for homeowners
 - Coordinating volunteers to assist the City of Joplin with **planting more than 200 trees** at city parks
 - **Helping more than 150 Joplin** homeowners and renters in moving from temporary living situations to more permanent housing
 - Assisting with administrative recovery tasks.
- Federal, state and local officials teamed up with **The Independent Living Center** in Joplin and other disability organizations to serve as a resource for individuals with disabilities, access and other functional needs – ensuring that people with disabilities, seniors and those with low English proficiency had the same opportunity as others to access and understand disaster assistance.
- **FEMA recovery specialists helped the Joplin community** establish a citizen-based, long-term recovery effort now known as the Joplin Citizens Advisory Recovery Team (CART). With input from a broad cross-section of the community, CART developed a long-term recovery plan and has begun its implementation.
- FEMA continues to work with a local **Long-Term Recovery Committee**, representing more than 50 voluntary agencies, on more than 1,000 cases of unmet, disaster-related needs.

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