

The following information is from the Indiana Joint Information Center (JIC) working in conjunction with the [Indiana Department of Homeland Security](#) . For more up-to-date information, follow IDHS on Facebook or Twitter (@IDHS).

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## **STATUS UPDATE**

On March 2, 2012, tornadoes struck the southeastern part of the State of Indiana.

Activities in affected areas of the state are shifting to recovery mode, with efforts focused on restoring utilities and roadways, cleanup efforts, and assisting Hoosiers with specific needs.

Preliminary damage assessments teams will begin working in the affected areas on Tuesday, March 6. Teams will be comprised of representatives from IN DHS, FEMA and U.S. Small Business Administration.

**Preliminary results from National Weather Service storm survey teams:**

- Two separate super cell thunderstorms were tracked over southern Indiana and into Kentucky with each producing a tornado along their path.
- Between the towns of Pekin and Henryville, the storms followed essentially the same path and were separated by approximately 10 minutes.
- The first storm was the more powerful of the two, producing an EF-4 tornado which damaged homes and a large junior-senior high school in Henryville.
- Further EF-4 damage was found near Chelsea in Jefferson County.
- Near Pekin (Washington County), EF-3 damage was found.
- EF-2 tornado preliminarily identified in Posey County
- EF-3 tornado preliminarily identified in Ripley County.

Again, these findings are preliminary and are complicated by the long distances and overlapping tracks the storms and tornadoes traveled. More details are expected to follow.

**24-Hour Weather Forecast from National Weather Service:** Overnight snowfall in southern Indiana ranged from 1 inch to 3 inches. The upcoming forecast calls for mostly sunny conditions, not as cool, with temperatures reaching the upper 50s, and wind 15 to 25 mph, gusting to around 35 mph.

**Volunteers and Donations:** Indiana Volunteers Active in Disasters (INVOAD) has established a Volunteer Reception Center in Jeffersonville (723 Spring Street), which is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Anyone who wants want to assist should register their contact information and skills.

**Local Meetings (Clark County):** Clark County Commissioners are beginning a series of public town hall-type meetings. The first is today (March 5) at 4:00 p.m. at the Henryville Community Church, located at Lake Road and U.S. 31 in Henryville.

**Wireless Emergency Communications Centers:** Several private companies are supporting communications in the affected areas by providing Internet, power and cell phone services for area residents:

Verizon has deployed a wireless emergency communications center to allow citizens to charge cell phones, use phones to make calls and access the Internet to obtain emails. It is expected to be available in 24 hours. Unit is located at 251 S. Ferguson Street in Henryville.

The Sprint-Nextel COW (Cellular on Wheels) is located in the parking lot at 301 S. Ferguson Street, Henryville. The actual GPS location is N 38-32.325 and W 085-46.073.

A Duracell Batteries truck will begin operations at 8 a.m. Monday morning at the Methodist Church in Henryville. The vehicle offers batteries, a means of charging cell phones and computers, free WiFi, some computers for accessing email, and satellite TV for relaxation.

**Free Child Care for Families in Impacted Communities:** YMCA Child Development Center Kids Square is offering free child care starting Monday morning to affected families. Location is 819 Short Street, Charlestown, IN. For more information (812)256-2005.

**Tetanus Shot Clinic:** The Washington County Health Department (806 Martinsburg Road, suite 100; Salem) will offer free tetanus shots on Monday, March 5, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and again from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Anyone uncertain about his/her need for a tetanus shot is asked to call 812-883-5603 in advance.

**Temporary Medical Services (Henryville):** A temporary medical center has been established at the Henryville Medical Center at 314 S. Ferguson St., Henryville, to provide basic first aid

services.

**Power Outages:** The number of customers without power is 991, those are primarily in the Henryville area.

**Water System Inspections:** Indiana Department of Environmental Management teams will be in the affected areas inspecting public water systems. Henryville's water system is under a DO NOT DRINK advisory.

**Fatalities:** While initial reports from Scott County indicated there were three tornado related deaths, local officials have now confirmed there was only one. So the total number of known deaths related to this incident is now 13. The 13th fatality was added with the passing of Angel Babcock.

Clark, 1 fatality in Henryville

Jefferson, 4 fatalities in Saluda Twp near Chelsea

Ripley, 2 fatalities from the Holton area

Scott, 1 fatality in Lexington Twp (southeast Scott County)

Washington, 5 fatalities in New Pekin

**Curfew:** All of Clark County remains under a curfew between the hours of 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., issued by County Commissioners. Overnight travel is restricted to emergency and public safety personnel.

**Utilities:** Natural gas services have been restored in some areas of Henryville.

**Travel Update:**

- State Road 62 near Friendship at the Ripley/Dearborn County is closed
- State Road 160 EB (Clark County) west of Henryville at I-65 is open to local traffic only
- U.S. 31 from S.R. 356 (Scott Co.) to S.R. 403 (Clark Co.) is closed
- State Road 362 (Clarke Co.) from S.R. 3 to S.R. 62 has reopened

For information on road closures, visit the Indiana Travel Conditions site, which can be found at <http://indot.carsprogram.org> or by calling (800) 261-ROAD (7623).

**RESPONSE EFFORTS**

**Federal Emergency Management Agency:** FEMA personnel have arrived on site and are working with State counterparts to gather damage statistics and estimates, support State response efforts, and provide staffing resources as required.

**Indiana Task Force 1:** Indiana Task Force 1 team members have completely demobilized and returned home.

**District Response Task Force (DRTF) 4:** (Total of 2 persons) Two law enforcement team members remain on site to assist.

**District Response Task Force (DRTF) 5 IMAT:** (1 total): One team member remains deployed to operate as Clark County Emergency Operations Center (Sellersburg, IN). Center is fully operational.

**District Response Task Force (DRTF) 7:** (19 persons total): Has been activated to Henryville to assist with debris management.

**Indiana IMAT (18 persons):** The Indiana Incident Management Assistance Team is coordinating debris management efforts in the Henryville and Marysville areas and Clark County EOC.

**State Emergency Operations Center:** Under the leadership of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), the Indiana Emergency Operations Center (EOC) remains activated 24 hours a day to monitor conditions and provide resource support to county emergency agencies in affected areas.

**The Indiana National Guard:** Has completely demobilized and returned home, with duties completed.

**Indiana State Police (ISP):** Thirty nine troopers with the Tactical Intervention Platoon (TIP) from Bloomington, Ft. Wayne and Lafayette, IN remain deployed to southern Indiana, primarily in Henryville, Marysville and Pekin, to assist local law enforcement with security.

The Mobile Command Center and high ranking ISP officers remain in Henryville to assist local law enforcement with ongoing security efforts.

The Indiana Department of Transportation is supporting efforts to control traffic flow around affected areas.

**Department of Natural Resources:** Using several Four-Wheel-Drive and All-Terrain Vehicles, Indiana Conservation Officers continue to assist local law enforcement and emergency management officials with security and response and recovery operations.

The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry has saw crews available to assist with debris removal.

**Disaster Mental Health Teams:** Twelve mental health professionals in three teams from Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addictions with Family and Social Services Administration have been deployed to provide assistance to those impacted by the storms. Teams have already arrived in Washington and Ripley counties. A team is expected to arrive in Clark County today. Crisis counseling line is toll free: 1-866-679-4631.

**Current Shelters Open:**

American Legion  
209 S. Main Street  
Salem, IN

Charlestown High School  
1 Pirate Place  
Charlestown, IN

Chelsea Church of God  
6231 S. State Road 62  
Lexington, IN 47138

Holton Community Center  
50 East and West  
Holton, IN

## **PUBLIC ADVISORIES**

**Toll-Free Crisis Counseling Line:** The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) has established a toll free hotline to provide mental health services for those affected by the storm: 1-866-679 4631. Individuals can receive counseling by phone or referrals for services.

**Storm Damage Reports:** Hoosiers, who sustained damage caused by severe weather that began Thursday, March 1, are being asked to report damage online by visiting [www.in.gov/dhs](http://www.in.gov/dhs) and clicking on "Citizen Damage Reports for March Severe Weather" in the middle of the page under "Topics of the Day." This is NOT an application for any assistance program, but a way to help local emergency managers to assess storm damage progress.

Tornado survivors and concerned citizens can call 2-1-1 (or 317.926.4357) for help and information regarding the recent severe weather event.

For more information about actions before, during and after severe weather and tornados, visit [GetPrepared.in.gov](http://GetPrepared.in.gov).

Follow IDHS on Facebook and on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/IDHS](http://www.twitter.com/IDHS) to stay informed about this developing situation.

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