

The following information is from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's website:
<http://www.in.gov/dhs/>

March 6, 2012, 1100 eastern

State of Indiana Response to Tornado Activity in Southeastern Indiana

*****New information in bold italics***

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.

Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments teams began field visits this morning across the affected area. Teams comprised of representatives from IN DHS, FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration. These damage assessments are a key part of the multi-step process to determine whether it is appropriate to pursue federal assistance.

Power Outages: Fewer than 500 residents are still without power.

Tetanus Shot Clinic: Clark County Health Dept. "Heart to Heart" trailer, located in the parking lot of Clark Memorial Health Center, is offering tetanus shots free of charge for public or volunteers. Available from 8 am to 6 pm Monday (3/5) and Tuesday (3/6), then reassess future needs.

Washington County is offering tetanus shots at the local health department in Salem located at 806 Martinsburg Road from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. People who think they need a shot should call (812/883-5603) in advance so staff can determine the need to get a new one.

Tetanus shots also will be available starting tomorrow at the Sellersburg IVY Tech campus.

Local Meetings: Clark County Commissioners began a series of public town hall-type meetings. A second meeting will take place for Daisy Hill residents on Thursday, March 8 at 4:00 p.m. The town hall meeting will take place at the Daisy Hill United Methodist Church located at 22803 Dan Gray Road in Borden, IN.

The first was yesterday at the Henryville Community Church.

Disaster Mental Health Teams: Twenty mental health professionals in five teams from Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addictions with Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) have been deployed to provide assistance to those impacted by the storms. These teams will be wandering through the counties of Clark, Jefferson, Ripley, and Washington counties. Crisis counseling line is toll free: 1-866-679-4631. Individuals can receive counseling by phone or referrals for services.

Livestock Carcass Disposal: The Standard Fertilizer Company will dispose of dead livestock carcasses without charge. Call (800) 742-9761 or (812) 663-8391 for pick-up.

Curfew: The Clark County curfew applies only to areas affected by the tornado. Towns under the 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. curfew include: Nabb, Henryville and Marysville. Overnight travel is restricted to emergency and public safety personnel.

Volunteers and Donations:

Clark County EOC is reporting the following updates for donations:

* Donations are NO LONGER being accepted at the I-65 southbound rest area. All donations of in-kind items should be made to the warehouse at 700 Patrol Road in Jeffersonville. Enter the site at Gate 2.

* Greatest needs are: Money, Non-perishable food items, Diapers, Wipes, Shampoo, Soaps, Cleaning supplies, Buckets, Brooms, Plastic storage totes, Gloves, Plastic garbage bags

* NOT NEEDED: Perishable/refrigerated/frozen items, Clothing

Indiana Volunteers Active in Disasters (INVOAD): has established the Official Volunteer Reception Center, being operated by United Way at 723 Spring Street, Jeffersonville. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 7 days a week. Volunteers must register, sign release and obtain safety training at the United Way Volunteer Reception Center. Because of current safety hazards, volunteers must be 18 years. May accept volunteers ages 16-17 with signed parental consent. Younger volunteers may be accepted after hazards are cleared. Work boots, heavy duty gloves & warm clothes are recommended.

The Volunteer Reception Center: has begun canvassing property-to property to record needs for volunteer assistance for homeowners and renters. Official volunteers will have proper credentials—survivors are encouraged to be cautious and ask to see credentials. Homeowners needing help from Volunteers should call 211.

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. The center is located at Hills Auto and Truck parking lot on SR 160 in Henryville, which is located just west of Ferguson St.

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 began 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.

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

Utilities: Natural gas services in Henryville have been restored to buildings that are still intact.

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

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: *More than 50 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.

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.

Indiana State Police (ISP): *24 troopers with the Tactical Intervention Platoon (TIP) from Bloomington and Jasper 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.

PUBLIC ADVISORIES

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

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 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.

Follow IDHS on Facebook and on Twitter at www.twitter.com/IDHS to stay informed about this developing situation.

Text "follow IDHS" to 40404 to receive updates from IDHS even if you do not have a twitter account.

BACKGROUND

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

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.

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