

Disaster Plan 2015 - 2019

2013 Update

Missouri received two federal major disaster declarations in 2013 for Public Assistance funding, both of which involved severe storms, straight-line winds and flooding. Total damage estimates for both declarations were more than \$31 million. As a result a FEMA/SEMA Joint Field Office opened in Jefferson City to assist with both recovery efforts.

Severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes and flooding resulted in a disaster declaration for 27 Missouri counties under FEMA's Public Assistance Program for the incident period of May 29 to June 10, 2013. Governor Jay Nixon declared a state of emergency on May 31, 2013. Working together, SEMA, FEMA and local jurisdictions estimated the damage at \$13.5 million.

In response, FEMA-4130-DR-MO was declared on July 18, 2013 for Barton, Callaway, Cape Girardeau, Chariton, Clark, Howard, Iron, Knox, Lewis, Lincoln, Maries, Marion, Miller, Montgomery, Osage, Perry, Pike, Putnam, Ralls, Shelby, St. Charles, St. Louis, St. Genevieve, Stoddard, Sullivan, Texas, and Webster Counties.

When a number of tornadoes hit the St. Louis area on the night of May 31, American Red Cross stood ready and opened a shelter immediately on June 1, remaining open until June 4. The shelter housed 15 residents at its high point.

Just eight weeks later, severe storms, straight-line winds and flooding hit again resulting in a federal major disaster declaration for 18 counties under FEMA's Public Assistance Program for the incident period of August 2 to August 14, 2013. Governor Nixon declared a state of emergency on August 27, 2013. Working together, SEMA, FEMA, and local jurisdictions estimated the damage at \$18.4 million.

During this time period in August, the American Red Cross assisted with sheltering residents as needed in St. Roberts, in Pulaski County, after a mobile home park flooded in the early morning hours, in Hollister, in Taney County, due to flooding, and in Lake Ozark, in Camden County, due to flooding.

Department of Social Services Family Support Division (FSD) staff worked at the Multi Agency Resource Center in Waynesville as a result of the flooding in Pulaski County providing information about all DSS programs. Children's Division staff made contact with all resource providers caring for children in Children's Division custody to assess needs and provide assistance as needed. Children's Division Early Childhood and Preventive Services, along with the Department of Health and Senior Services, made contact with Licensed and Registered Providers in the affected areas to assess any disruption in child care services and provide assistance if needed. This reach out to resource providers is the expectation of field staff in all disaster and emergency events, regardless of scope, and is offered here as an example.

FEMA-4144-DR-MO was declared on September 6, 2013, for Barry, Camden, Cedar, Dade, Dallas, Laclede, Maries, McDonald, Miller, Osage, Ozark, Phelps, Pulaski, Shannon, Taney, Texas, Webster and Wright Counties.

In addition to the events that resulted in FEMA disaster declarations, there were other serious emergency events in Missouri in 2013. Late February snow storms resulted in power outages in mostly outstate Missouri. DSS emergency management staff closely monitored the power outage situation with Public Service Commission staff, SEMA staff, local Emergency Management officials and American Red Cross staff and volunteers to determine when and where local shelters should be open. Fortunately, power outages and sheltering needs were minimal. Localized flooding in April resulted in the American Red Cross and other agencies providing shelter and services to residents in DeSoto, Missouri. The American Red Cross also opened a shelter for a few days due to a tornado in Hazelwood, Missouri, in April. In addition, on the same date in April severe thunderstorms generating large hail, damaging winds and isolated tornadoes caused damages and power outages in Franklin County, St. Charles County, St. Louis County and the City of St. Louis, and Ripley County. The American Red Cross assisted where needed, sometimes providing hotel vouchers rather than opening shelters. The American Red Cross opened a shelter due to a tornado in Hannibal in late May that caused power outages for several days.

When disaster events occur in Missouri, such as tornadoes, damaging winds, flooding or flash flooding, and power outages, and local assistance such as shelters/feeding operations or multi agency resource centers need to be open, Department of Social Services emergency management employees staff the Emergency Support Function 6 (ESF6) desk at the State Emergency Operations Center during the response. They provide information immediately to Children's Division staff including daily situation reports regarding mass care activities, as well as daily shelter reports and other situational information, throughout the events so that Children's Division staff can immediately be aware of which parts of the state are affected and the seriousness of the situation. Children's Division staff can then follow pre-established disaster response procedures, pursuant to the Division's Emergency Plans, to begin assessing the well-being and potential needs of both children and resource providers.

The Children's Division is the lead agency for the Child Care Assistance Program, which provides assistance with payment for child care for eligible parents/guardians. Children's Division assumed a leadership role in working with its partners at the federal, state and local level to develop an emergency preparedness plan for the Child Care Assistance Program in an effort to ensure the continuity of service to children and families. The Children's Division received technical assistance from the Office of Child Care in the development of its emergency preparedness plan for child care. The Missouri Child Care Assistance Program Disaster Plan was completed in 2014 and was written with a multi-agency approach providing a solid foundation for planning. It is posted on the Children's Division website. Children's Division Child Care staff participated in a multi-state Table Top Exercise hosted by Administration for Children and Families Region VII conducted in Kansas City in June 2013 allowing staff the opportunity to discuss the plan, existing efforts in Missouri and learn from other states, while focusing on improving child care emergency planning. Children's Division Child Care staff co-lead the Child Care Work Group of the Children and Youth in Disaster Subcommittee.

In 2013 Children's Division staff were involved in the Children and Youth in Disaster Subcommittee of the Access and Functional Needs Committee of The Governor's Faith-Based and Community Service Partnership for Disaster Recovery State Citizen Corps Council (The Governor's Partnership). The mission

of the Children and Youth in Disaster Subcommittee is to promote and facilitate comprehensive interagency planning for the needs of children and youth in emergencies and disasters in Missouri.

Currently, Children's Division or Department of Social Services staff are represented on four of the six work groups of the Subcommittee— Children in State Custody or Congregate Care, Child Care (Children's Division co-chairs this work group), Pediatric Behavioral Care, and Emergency Services for Children and Youth. The other two work groups of the Subcommittee are Public Health and Medical, and Education.

The Subcommittee had its first meeting in January 2013. The Subcommittee has reviewed the recommendations outlined by the National Commission on Children and Disasters in the 2010 Report to the President and Congress, and worked to identify gaps.

Members of the Subcommittee have reviewed and studied The Federal Emergency Management Agency guidance document: "Post-Disaster Reunification for Children: A Nationwide Approach" which provides a purpose statement, example partner organizations/agencies, and issues to address.

The focus for 2014 is unaccompanied minors and reunification with their families. The Missouri State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) Emergency Human Services is working to secure funding for a Children and Youth in Disaster Summit with a tentative planning date of November 2014. This summit will bring together all six work groups and Children and Youth in Disaster partners, provide meaningful information for launching forward progress, provide an emergency management overview, and allow for time for breakouts where the work groups will meet to undertake strategic planning for next steps.

Central office staff from DSS and field staff participated in the Ameren UE Callaway Nuclear Power Plant annual exercise held in September 2013, and the Ameren UE Bagnell Dam and Truman Dam exercise held in October 2013.

In 2014 Children's Division staff will have the opportunity to participate in an 8-state New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ) Earthquake Exercise sponsored by the Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC) – CAPSTONE-14. CAPSTONE-14 is scheduled for June 16-20, 2014 and is designed to strengthen partnerships between local, state and federal government, while engaging public and private sector entities in planning response and recovery from a catastrophic earthquake occurring within the New Madrid Seismic Zone.

CAPSTONE-14 will build from lessons learned during the New Madrid Seismic Zone Catastrophic Planning Project and National Level Exercise (NLE 11). Children's Division staff will participate in CAPSTONE-14 at the Missouri SEMA State Emergency Operations Center ESF6 desk, along with SEMA staff and other ESF 6 Mass care partners, such as American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Southern Baptists, United Way 2-1-1, etc.

Information regarding the October 17, 2013 Central US ShakeOut and earthquake preparedness information was shared with all Children's Division staff. Information will be shared again regarding the October 2014 Central US ShakeOut. Children's Division Safety Teams throughout the state participate in the yearly statewide tornado drill and fire drills as appropriate.

The Children's Division Manager at the State Office level is responsible for disaster and emergency management planning and represents the Children's Division on statewide committees such as The Governor's Partnership, the Missouri Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (MOVOAD), the State Mass Care Committee, the Access and Functional Needs Committee, and the Children and Youth in Disasters Subcommittee.

Over the past five years, Missouri has experienced a wide range of natural disasters including tornadoes, ice storms, blizzards, and flooding. Each time a disaster strikes our state, the Children's Division must activate our emergency plan to ensure children, resource providers, and staff are located and safe. Children's Division staff and resource providers must be prepared to respond to the emergency at hand immediately. Fortunately, all individuals were accounted for at each disaster and no lives were lost.

Review of 2010 – 2014 Plan

In the CFSP for 2010 - 2014, the Disaster Plan identified the objective of working with partners, including other state and federal agencies and community partners, Children's Division staff and resource providers will be prepared for disasters and emergencies. The plan included seven measures of progress:

- Increased training of staff and providers for emergencies through the Employee Learning Center for employees and in-service training for providers (provided in-house or by other agencies)
- Increased preparedness by ensuring each circuit has a circuit-specific emergency plan and staff and resource providers are personally prepared.
- Circuit plans will be reviewed annually by management staff
- Resource providers' plans may be available for review and monitored as needed by licensing staff
- Increased ability to track and locate children in custody
- Streamline child identification processes
- Use emerging technology to geo-locate resource providers

Increased training of staff and providers for emergencies through the Employee Learning Center for employees and in-service training for providers (provided in-house or by other agencies):

All employees are required to receive basic emergency management training through on-line courses offered through the Employee Learning Center (ELC). Training curriculum varies based on the employee level of response in an emergency. This practice continues and has provided basic information in responding to emergencies to all employees in our agency to better prepare them for response when a disaster occurs. The availability of training through the ELC has proven to be a useful tool for our agency and is readily available for staff at their convenience.

For example, in 2010 Missouri experienced a major disaster when an EF-5 tornado devastated the city of Joplin. Children's Division staff were prepared and immediately began assessing the impact on our resource providers and children in care. Respite care and other services were offered to impacted providers. Staff understood the importance of connecting children with their families as soon as possible. Visits between biological parents and children were arranged quickly with counselors present to assist in dealing with this additional trauma. Emergency child care was opened in the larger community shelters.

Increased preparedness by ensuring each circuit has a circuit-specific emergency plan and staff and resource providers are personally prepared:

All Circuits have an emergency plan for the local office and each resource provider is required to have an emergency plan. The plans have aided in each disaster as local protocols were developed to ensure each foster child and resource provider is accounted for and safe. Reports are made to Central Office to provide a statewide assessment of the impact. This protocol has allowed local managers and Central Office to immediately address concerns.

In the summer of 2011, heavy flooding caused the Missouri River to overflow its banks. Acres of land were flooded throughout the state. Several resource providers were displaced due to the flooding. Local CD staff followed protocols outlined in their emergency plans to visit and assess temporary homes to ensure safety of our children in foster care.

Circuit plans will be reviewed annually by management staff:

Quality Improvement staff review emergency plans in each Circuit annually. Plans are adjusted as necessary based on lessons learned in recent disasters. This process allows new employees and managers to become familiar with existing plans and update as needed. New community resources may be developed over the course of the year which needs to be included in the plan.

In Joplin, the Children's Division has purchased two tornado shelters which have been moved on location at the CD office building. Protocol for accessing these shelters will be added to the Circuit plan.

Resource providers' plans may be available for review and monitored as needed by licensing staff:

Resource providers, as well as residential treatment facilities, must be prepared for an immediate response during an emergency. Plans are reviewed annual by licensing staff to ensure they are up to date and appropriate. This process requires resource providers to review and discuss their emergency plan at least annually.

During each disaster over the past five years, CD staff accounted for all children in care through contact with the resource provider. Emergency phone numbers and alternate locations are available in each resource provider record to allow for immediate contact.

Increased ability to track and locate children in custody:

During this five year period, all children and youth in foster care were accounted for immediately following each disaster. Only two foster children sustained injuries, both during the tornado in Joplin.

Children's Division staff are involved in the Children and Youth in Disaster Subcommittee of the Access and Functional Needs Committee of the Governor's Faith Based and Community Service Partnership for Disaster Recovery State Citizen Corps Council. Department of Social Services staff are represented on four of the six committees: Children in State Custody or Congregate Care, Child Care, Pediatric Behavioral Care, and Emergency Services for Children and Youth. The groups are working in collaboration to meet the needs of children in emergencies and disasters in Missouri.

A change was made in the Children's Division FACES (SACWIS) system in 2013 to allow a sub-placement address for children in foster care. If, for example, a foster child attends a camp during the summer, staff can add an address for the child so staff will know at all times the location of a child in care.

Streamline child identification processes:

The original intent of this measure was to capture photos of children and youth in foster care to maintain a database. It became apparent this database would be difficult to maintain as pictures would need to be updated on a regular basis to remain current. Also, photos of children/youth in foster care could not be released without approval from the court. It was, therefore, determined, the plan to develop a database would not be beneficial. No further work was completed on this measure.

Use emerging technology to geo-locate resource providers:

The original intent of this measure was to utilize emerging technology to locate resource providers through IP addresses. This measure has not been pursued further at this time.

Plan for 2015 - 2019

Missouri Children's Division Emergency Response Plans proved to be effective tools, which when followed in response to disasters occurring in 2013 enabled Children's Division to proficiently assess the needs of clients and ensure the safety of children in care and its employees. No changes to the established plans are anticipated.

Missouri's Emergency Response Plans are attached (*Attachment D CD Emergency Plan, Attachment E Out of Home Care Emergency Plan, Attachment F CAN Emergency Plan*).